

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

FYY

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is FYY. My date of birth is 1986. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I've been told that my parents led a chaotic lifestyle and social work put me on the vulnerable child list as soon as I was born. My mother, was a drug addict and my dad, was a drinker and was quite abusive.
3. I believe my family is originally from the Govanhill area in Glasgow. I have one brother, who is two years older than me. I think I might have lived with my mum, dad and for a short time when I was a baby. I've been told that there was a lot of moving about to mother and baby units and such places, and the family members I'm in contact with now have told me that I lived with them for several months as well.
4. The first place I remember living in was in Govanhill. I have a memory of what looked like a cupboard with a bed inside. I'm not sure if this actually was my mum's house.
5. The furthest back I can remember is being about two or three years old and having contact with my mum in the Govanhill social work office. My auntie and cousin sometimes came along too.

6. I don't remember being taken into care on a permanent basis, but I remember the first place I went into was Garfield Children's Home in Cathcart, Glasgow. I think I was about three or four. My brother was there too.

Garfield Children's Home, Cathcart, Glasgow

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Leaving Garfield

17. A family came to visit me about three times when I was in Garfield and I had a couple of overnights with them. They were my new foster family. I don't remember how they were introduced to me, or if my key worker explained to me that they were

going to be my foster family. I do remember the social worker asking me if I would like to go and live with them.

Foster care – [REDACTED], **Falkirk**

18. My brother and I were both fostered by [REDACTED]. I think it was a Barnardo's foster placement. [REDACTED] must have been in their fifties. They had two children, one of them, [REDACTED] was married and the other, [REDACTED] was about twenty-one and lived at home. She was nice. I still talk to her every now and then.
19. I kind of liked living with [REDACTED] at the start. We called them mum and dad. I can't remember how soon that started. It was quite a nurturing placement at the start and then it became more regimental. [REDACTED] was always the nurturing one. She was a fantastic cook so the food was always great. The foster dad was more strict and old fashioned in his ways.
20. You had to ask if you wanted a biscuit or drink from the fridge. You'd get into trouble if you took anything without asking. You'd watch their own daughters come into the house and do as they please. You couldn't go into their bedroom. Kids normally go in and sit with their parents or jump around on their bed, but we couldn't do that. We'd also get shunted away when they had people over for dinner. We weren't included in these things. We'd just come in at the end to clean up the table. The more their attitude towards me changed, the more I started playing up and just doing as I pleased.

Routine in foster care with FSQ-SPO*Mornings and bedtime*

21. My brother and I shared a bedroom. We had alarms and got ourselves up in the morning.
22. We were allowed to use the shower and bath in the house at first. We were then told that we had to use the one attached to the big gym in the basement, which meant we had to go all the way outside the house and down the stairs to the basement. You had to brave it on a cold morning. It started to feel as if we were being segregated. We were told it was because we made a mess of the bathroom in the house, but we were just kids and that's what kids do.

Chores

23. The house was big with a massive garden which was bigger than a football pitch. It wasn't in a good state when we arrived. My brother and I did a lot of the work in it. Now that I'm older, I kind of feel that we were just there to help do the house up. We had to do chores like weeding the garden, mowing the grass and washing the car. You couldn't do anything until all your chores were done.

Holidays and leisure time

24. One of the positive things was that FSQ-SPO were quite an active family and we did a lot of activities, such as cycling and mountain climbing. I've done tonnes of Munros. We went to places like Mull and Center Parcs. I take my own kids to Center Parcs now as I've got fond memories from there.

School

25. I went to Larbert Village Primary School initially. My placement there broke down quite quickly. I stabbed a boy in the hand with a pencil. I don't know why I did it. You don't think about it at that age, you just do it. I was then segregated from the other pupils and made to eat with plastic cutlery. My brother stayed at the school when I moved.
26. I then went to Comely Park School in Camelon. That lasted a year or so and then it broke down too. I wasn't well behaved. I was full of nonsense and carry-on all the time. I just wouldn't settle. I had to get a taxi to the second school as it was quite a distance away. The first school had been only a five-minute walk from the house.
27. The next school was Carron Primary School and I remained there until I finished primary education. Although, I was suspended on several occasions for taking pen knives in.

Birthdays and Christmas

28. Birthdays and Christmas were usually pretty good, except for one year when I didn't get many presents because I had been terrible that year. It was made clear to me that I got less because I had been misbehaving. I had to sit and watch my brother opening all his big presents.

Visits/Inspections

29. I didn't have any contact with my family. When things went wrong, I would ask to go and live with my real parents and would be made to pack my bags. Then when I settled down, I would be asked if I wanted to stay. I remember writing a letter to my mum once and the social worker brought a reply back for me.
30. I remember the Barnardo's worker coming out to visit and having meetings quite often. Her name was Ros Was. I don't remember how often the social worker, Frances Shah, visited but it wasn't very often. I remember things were always good in the build-up to a social work or Barnardo's visit.

31. For some reason, they came up with the idea that I should spend time with an Asian family, GFZ-SPO ██████████, in Edinburgh. I think it was organised by Barnardo's. I was about eleven. GFZ-SPO ██████████ used to take me out to places like the Hillend Ski Centre. I got on really well with their son and enjoyed spending time with them. The visits then just stopped. I was told by FSQ-SPO ██████████ that the family couldn't see me any more because their son had been killed running across a rail track. I think they maybe just came up with that to give me some sort of reason for the visits stopping. It always seemed to be that if I latched onto somebody else, FSQ-SPO ██████████ kind of disapproved of it.

Discipline

32. The discipline was enforced by just the foster dad. It seemed to be just me who got it in the neck a lot of the time. My brother was quite fly. A lot of things I got in trouble for were done by him, not me, but I was the who was thought to be unruly.
33. I got shouted at and grounded if I misbehaved. The foster dad never resorted to violence, but there was always the threat of it. He would threaten to take his belt off. He'd also sit me on a chair in a room in the dark, and I wasn't allowed to move until he said so. It was always quite frightening.
34. If I got a punishment exercise from school, he would quadruple the punishment by making me write out a full chapter from a book.
35. The foster dad was away quite a lot with his work, and I'd play up when he was gone. I ended up stealing quite a lot as well. I never got any pocket money so I would just take it. As soon as ██████████ told me he was coming back, I'd worry about what my punishment was going to be. I always remember being worried about what he was going to do to me.

Children's hearings

36. I went to children's hearings in Bell Street in Glasgow. I hadn't been adopted, so I had to go to hearings to see how things were going. It was quite an eerie place to go to as a kid. There was never anybody else about. They'd ask you questions at a big table and then you'd be sent out to a wee room. I've always been a talkative person, even as a wee boy, so I didn't shy away from talking, but I only ever mentioned the good things. I never mentioned anything that was annoying or upsetting me in foster care. I was usually only in the room for about five minutes anyway, and then I'd be back sitting in the wee room. I don't remember whether the social worker or Barnardo's worker met with me to get my views on things before the hearings. I do remember that everything was always good in the run up to hearings.

Healthcare

37. I went through a stage when I wished I was someone else. I would lie in my bed and wish I was living a different life. I'd always fall asleep envisioning myself as somebody else. I also went through phases where I'd sit in my room and hit myself. [REDACTED] I don't know why I was doing it. Maybe it was to get attention, or maybe I was just messed up back then.

38. I was taken to see psychologists. [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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39. The first psychologist was called Duncan, who was based in Camelon. I think I saw him once every couple of weeks. He was always trying to delve right inside my mind. Duncan tried quite a lot of things, such as putting me on a sugar-free diet to stop me being so hyper. He didn't last long. Nowadays, I'd be diagnosed with ADHD or they'd put some kind of label on me, but back then it was just thought of as misbehaving.

40. I then went to a place in Glasgow which I think was called Notre Dame. A taxi used to pick me up in Falkirk and take me to Glasgow. I think the psychologist was a nun. Again, I just sat and talked to her or I played games while she talked to me.
41. FSQ was a physiotherapist, so he also tried things like acupuncture on me to try and calm me down.
42. The foster carers' daughter was training to be a psychologist and she did some work with me too. It was just talking and trying to delve into how I was feeling. Secondary Institu
Secondary Institutions - to be published later I didn't tell her about my feelings of being excluded and segregated in the foster home. I managed to get back in touch with her just over three years ago and told her then.

Relationship with sibling

43. My brother and I didn't get on and were always fighting with each other. FSQ would tell us to go down to the gym to sort our differences out. We never got violent, but it didn't exactly help us to build a proper brotherly relationship. Although I see him now, we still don't have that kind of relationship. My brother now openly admits that he got away with everything when we were kids. He stayed with FSQ-SPO when I moved on.

Abuse in foster care with FSQ-SPO

44. There are two incidents which I'd class as abuse. ██████ made a tray of tablet one day and I demolished the lot. As a punishment, FSQ made me eat another full tray which had been made with salt instead of sugar. I spewed everywhere. It was an old fashioned way of trying to stop a child from being greedy. I was a greedy kid but you just don't do that, especially not to a wee kid.
45. My brother was caught smoking and as a punishment we both had to smoke twenty fags and drink a bottle of beer with salt in it, even although I didn't smoke at the time.

Again, I guess the foster dad was thinking that this would put us off smoking. I think his way of dealing with these things just messed me up even more.

Leaving [FSQ-SPO]

46. I was twelve when the placement came to an end. I tried to kill myself [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. I vaguely remember it. I just remember sitting in a wee woodland area along from the house. I had been kicked out of school and just felt that I hated everything. [FSQ-SPO] [REDACTED] were also stopping me from seeing some kids I had started hanging about with, because they didn't like the sound of them. I was [REDACTED]. I then panicked and managed to get myself to someone's door. They [REDACTED] phoned an ambulance.
47. I was taken to hospital and kept in for one or two days. I wasn't badly injured. I think [FSQ-SPO] [REDACTED] came up to the hospital initially but didn't come back to visit. I don't remember speaking to a psychiatrist or psychologist. I stopped seeing psychologists after I left [FSQ-SPO] [REDACTED]. Nobody thought to refer me again [REDACTED].
48. I think I went straight from the hospital to a social work office in Glasgow. I remember being taken to a room, where I sat for hours while they tried to source a place for me.
49. I was quite hysterical as [FSQ] and [REDACTED] were technically my family. I called them mum and dad, and I just couldn't understand why my mum and dad would want to get rid of me. Even although I got upset and annoyed when I was living with them, deep down I always wanted to be there. [REDACTED] had always been good and living with them was my norm. Apparently, they asked my brother if he wanted to keep in touch with me when I left and he said no. I don't remember if I was asked.
50. I was taken initially to an emergency foster family who lived about five minutes away from [FSQ-SPO] [REDACTED]. They put me out after two days. I took the woman's purse and then denied it. I was then taken to another foster placement in Dunfermline.

Foster carers, Dumfermline

51. The foster dad's name was [REDACTED] and I think the woman was called [REDACTED]. I think their last name was [REDACTED]. I had no issues there. They were a nice family. They had another foster boy who was called [REDACTED]. I think he was a little bit younger than me. I settled in really well and really enjoyed my time there.
52. I stayed with them for around two months. I think it was during the school holidays as I didn't go to school there. It was another temporary placement but the woman met with social work to try and arrange for me to stay with them on a permanent basis. Social work told her they were intent on putting me with an Asian family. I never did go to an Asian family. I know that the foster carers adopted [REDACTED] and took in another boy after I left.
53. I think I still had the same social worker, Frances Shah, at this point. I don't think she told me much about the plans to send me to an Asian family. I think I was asked how I would feel about it and I said that I didn't want to do it, just due to the fact it was not what I was used to.
54. As far as I remember, I was just told that a place had been found for me and I was then taken to a children's home called Liddlesdale in Milton.

Liddlesdale Children's Unit, Milton, Glasgow

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Maxton Childrens Home, Bridgeton, Glasgow

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Falkland School, Fife

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83. Monday came and it was just an ordinary week for me in the school. At the end of the week, I was told that the staff from Maxton were coming up to get me. They then took me to Kerelaw, and I was put into the Fleming unit to stay for the weekend.
84. I went back to Falkland on the Monday and then at some point over the following two weeks, I ended up at Kerelaw full-time. Kerelaw was a residential school, so they must have thought it was better to keep me there all the time instead of sending me from a children's home to a residential school every week.
85. I don't remember whether I was involved in the decision to move me to Kerelaw. I remember being asked how the weekend had gone, and I said that it was fine. It had

been fine because it was the weekend and there was hardly anybody there. I did a few activities with some other boys and there was no reason to say it was terrible.

Kerelaw Residential School, Ayrshire

86. I was placed in the Millerstone unit as a permanent resident in Kerelaw. It was a horrible, minging place. There were thirteen residents to a house, aged from twelve to sixteen. I didn't get on well with the other residents initially. I think I was the only Asian person ever to have come into Kerelaw. I stuck out as a target. I was made to feel unwelcome and was bullied and assaulted. I wasn't a pushover, but there were kids in there you wouldn't answer back as they'd wipe the floor with you. There was a lot of intimidation and staff were aware of it. That settling in period really wasn't nice. Gradually, people started to take me under their wing and it got a bit better.
87. The unit manager was Shona Kelly. KBS was my key worker to start off and then it was Robert McVey for the rest of my time there. There were good and bad staff. [REDACTED], who is now my friend, was one of the good ones. The staff who were not so good didn't make an effort with you. Because I was in Kerelaw a long time, I learned who was really horrible and who I could latch onto and put my trust in. Whenever I had any problems, I always went to the same people and they spent a great deal of time with me. I did have some good times there.

Schooling

88. I left school with standard grades in cooking and art. There wasn't really any effort made to educate you at Kerelaw. I would sit and watch The Simpsons at school. Watching the telly and being restrained were daily occurrences. As soon as you weren't cooperating in school, they'd phone staff to come in heavy-handed to remove you from the room. I have nothing positive to say about the education at all.
89. They started to do music near the end of my time at Kerelaw. I played the guitar and drums and was right into my music. That was really my only enjoyment.

90. I also loved cooking. I think that came from my old foster mum being such a great cook. I went to college in Irvine and studied cookery after I sat my standard grades. That was when I started to become more independent, as I hadn't been allowed out before then. I really enjoyed the course, but I didn't get the full SVQ. I was really good at the practical side of the course but didn't have the capacity to do the theory. I did pass a few of the units.

Leisure time

91. I was never allowed out. I was kind of confined to the school and the different houses in Kerelaw. I don't know the reason why. I think they thought there was more of a safety risk with me, just with being a different colour and living in a rough area. I ran away loads of times, and the staff would always try to find me first. It was always the staff I had latched onto that would come looking for me, so it was probably because they cared about me. I didn't self-harm as much in Kerelaw. There was a long period of time when I didn't do it at all. I didn't try to hang myself while I was there.

Visits/inspections

92. I think I was the only one in the two boys' units that never had anywhere else to go. I was in that place twenty-four seven. All the other boys went out for visits. I think I had contact with my dad once.
93. I didn't see my social worker very often. I think at this point the social worker was a guy called Stephen, who was based in the Gorbals. He walked with two crutches. He was a nice guy. I don't remember ever going to a review or meeting in Kerelaw.
94. I think near the end of my time there, which was when things were starting to come out about how kids were being treated in Kerelaw, a lot of people were in doing their rounds, but nobody ever talked to me.

Abuse at Kerelaw

95. Pretty early into my time in Kerelaw, I had an argument with a member of staff called [FSY]. He was an ex [redacted] goalkeeper, so he was quite a tall and well-built guy. I remember this well as I had never experienced any member of staff being racist to me. He said to me that I was "nothing but a wee, black bastard". I hit the roof and ran about telling everybody what he'd said. It never came to anything. I think he was spoken to and denied it. I have never lied about a member of staff in my life, so I didn't just make it up.
96. There was one boy who bullied me a lot. He called me every name under the sun. We were sitting round the table one day and the Budweiser beer advert, with the frogs saying "Budweiser", came on the telly. The boy started saying the word "nigger" instead of "Budweiser" in the same way as the frogs. [FSY] just laughed and sniggered and didn't try to stop him. I wonder now why that bothered me, but it was hurtful back then.
97. When there were new kids coming into the house, [FSY] would hold residents' meetings and tell us all about the kids who were coming in. He'd say things like, "He thinks he's a wee ticket. If you boys want to have a quiet, wee word with him, you'll not see us". New kids got "kickings" because of this. If there's one person who sticks out in my mind out of all of them, it's [FSY]. He was just a horrible guy and it was always bad when he was on shift. There was never any money available for activities on his shifts either. I was told later that he had been stealing, but I don't know if that's true.
98. He would always scream in your face, intimidate you, push you, and he was aggressive when restraining you. Instead of your arms being at your sides and your legs straight, your arm would be touching the back of your neck, and your leg would pretty much be touching your neck as well. Pressure points on your body would get squeezed and his hand would push your head onto the carpet. I remember he was awful nice to me when things were starting to come out about Kerelaw. He invited me to his daughter's wedding and said that I was always one of his favourites.

99. FSY [REDACTED] was one of loads of staff members who were heavy-handed when doing restraints. The others are FST [REDACTED], FSB [REDACTED], FSR [REDACTED], Matt George, John Muldoon and FSL [REDACTED]. FST [REDACTED] was a wee guy from Liverpool. He was known as FST [REDACTED]. FSB [REDACTED] was the PE teacher. John Muldoon was either the manager or depute manager of the Baird unit. FSL [REDACTED] was from the Fleming unit. He was a big guy and I don't mean just tall. You couldn't breathe if he joined in a restraint. He was really intimidating. There was no aggression shown if they were doing the restraints with a good staff member like [REDACTED]. The restraints then would be the normal ones where your arms would be at your sides and your legs would be straight.
100. There were times when I had carpet burns right down my face and was bruised everywhere as a result of how I was restrained. You were held in such a way that if you tried to move, you'd be in total pain. You'd be really screaming. The more you screamed, the more pleasure they seemed to get. You never got any medical treatment for your injuries.
101. I found out that two members of staff were sleeping with each other and told the other kids. We all found it hilarious. We'd say stuff about it and the woman, HQP [REDACTED], would get all upset and angry. One morning, my bedroom door flew open and the guy, FSL [REDACTED], came in and literally picked me up out of my bed by the throat. I thought he was going to punch me, but he punched the wall behind me and put a dent in it. He called me all the names under the sun for spreading rumours. That was quite frightening, but again you don't make a formal complaint about it. You just moan and shout and nothing gets done.
102. A few of us were taken to Southport for a day trip after the incident with FSL [REDACTED]. The woman I'd been slagging off for sleeping with FSL [REDACTED] took us. Some of us got drunk on the trip and ended up being chased by local neds. One of the boys, [REDACTED], blamed it all on me and gave me the worst kicking I've ever had in my whole life. HQP [REDACTED] just sat outside the car and didn't bother coming in until he'd stopped. I think her surname was HQP [REDACTED]. My face was so badly injured, you'd have thought I'd

been in a car accident. I was about fifteen at the time. I didn't get any medical treatment. I went back to the unit, got washed up and they asked me if I was okay. The boy apologised the next day and that was it done and dusted. You'd just accept the apology because you knew you had to live with the person.

103. The gym teacher, **FSB** was just a big bully. He'd kick you up and down the pitch when you were playing football. He'd whack a few golf balls at you just for a laugh. He aimed them at you and people did get hit with them. It was treated as a joke. That's what you think when you're in there. You're not complaining about it. You're running about the gym hall trying to avoid it, thinking it's a joke.
104. It got to the point where I was allowed to walk about all the different units and houses in Kerelaw. I was winding up two staff members in the Baird unit one day. John Muldoon and **FST** chased me to a pool room, where they both got a hold of me and pinned me down on the pool table. They lobbed pool balls at me and then held them above my genitals and dropped them onto me. It was agony. I think they realised they had taken it a bit too far, as I was nearly in tears. They then gave me a cigarette and sent me back to my unit. I left sort of happy because I got a cigarette out of it.
105. When you walked into the technology teacher's class, he'd make you bend over and hit you with a set of keys. He did it with boys and girls. His name was **FRB**. You laughed about it at the time, but it was quite sexual. There was also an RE teacher, **FSV**, who lobbed dusters at your head. He was from Morocco.

Leaving Kerelaw

106. As soon as you turned sixteen, you were given options for moving on. I've never known anybody to stay in Kerelaw over the age of sixteen. There was no training or preparing me for moving on. I was just presented with the options. I was told that they had sourced a supported carer placement in Stevenston, Ayrshire or I could move into my own accommodation. Obviously, being sixteen, I jumped at the chance

of my own place. Little did I know that they meant a Blue Triangle Housing Association house.

107. My social worker took me to do a quick shop and then took me to the accommodation.

Life after being in care

108. There was no preparation in Kerelaw for what was coming next. I wasn't taught the skills you need for independent living. I still struggle to this day with budgeting. I went to live in a Blue Triangle house, Dorothy McCall House, in Charing Cross in Glasgow. It wasn't the nicest looking place, inside or out. It wasn't the flat of my own that I was expecting. It was like a big house with an office for staff and rooms for residents, which were kitted out like bedsits with cooking facilities. There were other kids living there. I stayed for about four months.
109. Social services paid my rent because of my particular situation. They also dropped off money for living expenses at first. I was still at college in Irvine, but it became an inconvenience travelling up and down, so I stopped going.
110. I didn't really see my social worker again after Kerelaw. It was Throughcare that I got more help from. They had an office in Wellington Street in Glasgow, and I used to turn up there when I needed money for things. The guy who ran it was always good with me. I can't remember his name.
111. I got a job as a waiter in a high-end restaurant, but I lost it because it was too close to where I was living and the other kids were coming and banging on the windows. I got another job as a waiter but was sacked from that too.
112. Again, I got pulled into stuff that wasn't really me. Kids were drinking every day and drugs were getting passed about the house, and I fell into that way of life. Every day was a holiday and my drinking got quite bad. I signed on near the end of my time

there and was constantly getting crisis loans just to get money to go out and have a good time. I managed to get a citizen's card which showed my age as eighteen, so I was buying alcohol when I was still only sixteen.

113. I moved on because the Blue Triangle house on Dumbarton Road was shutting down and the residents there were moving into our house in Charing Cross. We were given the option of staying or going. The guy who ran Throughcare in Wellington Street came and had a word with me. He tried to advise me to stay at Dorothy McCall House, but the other kids were moving and I said I wanted to go with them.
114. We all moved to another Blue Triangle place in Shettleston in Glasgow. It was above a row of shops in the middle of a scheme. We fought with the locals and were involved in some sort of trouble every single day. The Blue Triangle staff were meant to work with us and teach us skills like budgeting, but they basically just stayed in the office and let us get on with whatever we wanted to do.
115. One night everybody was so drunk and my friend put his hand through a window and blamed it on me. I was quite aggressive and got arrested and spent the weekend in the cells. I had started self-harming again in the Blue Triangle [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. My social worker came to see me. I had two women social workers after Stephen. She gave me the options of going to Polmont as a "place of safety" or going to supported carers in Balornock in Glasgow.
116. I choose to go to the supported carers, which was funded by Glasgow Council. Their names are [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. There was a girl and her wee daughter living with them as well.
117. I got on great with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. They brought me on leaps and bounds. They guided me to where I am now. I still have such a good relationship with them. I call them "auntie" and "uncle". They were at the top table at my wedding. Whenever I feel in doubt or have any problems, I go straight to them for advice. They always put me on the right track.

118. I did have some dodgy times with them though, when I was out of control and taking drugs. I remember having a huge argument with [REDACTED] one day, and I stormed out and bought a bottle of Buckfast. I went down to the Dorothy McCall House and was drinking with everybody. I climbed onto scaffolding and fell three storeys. I broke my shoulder and was told that I was lucky it wasn't my neck. I expected [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to kick me out, but they didn't.
119. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] also helped me to deal with issues I was having with my dad. His name is not on my birth certificate and he was questioning whether he was actually my dad. Usually I would go off the rails with something like that, but they guided me through it. I don't have any contact with my dad now.
120. When I woke up in hospital after the fall, my dad's wife was there and I sent her packing. I found out that my mum had told my dad that I was in hospital. I was angry at my mum for even contemplating asking him to come to the hospital, and I phoned her to tell her how I felt. My mum died two days later. Apparently, my mum had been off the drugs for a long time and my phone call made her go back on them and she overdosed and died. I don't see my auntie any more as she blames me for my mum's death.
121. I moved on from [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to my own flat in Townhead in Glasgow. I got what is called "section 24" money to furnish my house. I went back to college to do music performance. I made new friends and learned how to drink sociably.
122. I got the notion to work abroad and for some reason ended up working in Butlins in Skegness. I then got an injury, which led to me drinking again every day and I got into a bit of bother. I got the sack and came back to Glasgow with nothing. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] let me sleep on their couch until I was sorted out with an emergency supported carer. The supported carer was [REDACTED]'s nephew. I lived with him for a few months until I met my wife.

123. If it wasn't for [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], I wouldn't be in the situation I am in now. I would have taken a completely different path.

Reporting of abuse

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

124.

125.

126. I find it embarrassing talking about my experiences in care. The only people I go into detail with are [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I even think I'm wasting the Inquiry's time, as there's people who've been seriously sexually abused by staff members and here I am bringing my stuff. The only reason I'm doing it now is because of the line of work I'm in. I want to encourage the young people I work with to speak up, and I'd feel like a hypocrite if I didn't do it myself.
127. Back in 2012, I was so annoyed and frustrated that my education was so bad, and I was struggling to find the mentality to do what I wanted to do career-wise. I wanted answers from Glasgow social work and was emailing the head of social work. That started to bring back all the memories, stuff that I had forgotten about. I kept getting fobbed off. They were saying that I should phone Kerelaw. For me, it wasn't just about being in Kerelaw. Legally, social work were like my parents for eighteen years and they had failed me in so many ways. I'd been neglected and put in places I should never have been in, yet they didn't want to take responsibility for their actions. I never got anywhere with them.

128. I didn't report any of the incidents when I was at Kerelaw. I never sat down and said to my key worker that staff members were assaulting me. You didn't really know your rights and weren't in a position to say that the restraints weren't being done properly. At times, you'd shout out that you were going to get one of them charged, but it just became a normal thing that you accepted. Nothing would have got done anyway. I thought the incident with the pool balls was horseplay at the time, but when I look back now, I know they shouldn't have done that to me.

Kerelaw investigation

129. I had a chance to report what happened at Kerelaw when I was about sixteen. There were inquiries into two staff members, and I was called up to speak about them. I was also asked about my time in Kerelaw, but I think I didn't tell them about the abuse because I was still young. I just said it had been fine and there were no issues. I realise now that I didn't say anything because I was just out of the place and it all felt normal to me.

130. The two staff being investigated were guys that I liked, and I thought I should speak up for them. That's the only reason I went spoke up. One got struck off for chucking kids in rivers, but it was just a bit of horseplay. He used to take us walking up mountains, and we'd try to push him into rivers and he'd do the same to us. It wasn't like he vindictively picked on kids to fling them in. I never saw any aggression from the other member of staff either.

131. I also remember my social worker taking me to see a lawyer to tell him about Kerelaw, but I didn't want anything to do with him. I just wanted to move on and try to do something by myself at that point.

Reporting to the police

132. I contacted the police in early 2017, which was around the same time I got in touch with the Inquiry. I just dialled 101. The officers came to my door at eleven thirty at night. My wife, kids and I were in our beds. I felt so embarrassed talking to them

because they didn't know what they were coming out to. They didn't do anything to make me feel embarrassed. They just didn't know why they had been sent out and said they'd just been told to come and take a statement. I can't remember if I signed the statement. They told me it would be passed on to officers who specialised in child abuse. I would rather it had been dealt with by a specialist unit straight away, instead of sending two random officers to speak to me. If I felt embarrassed, I can only imagine how others with more extreme abuse cases would feel in that situation.

133. The name of the officer who then tried to speak with me is Dougie Stevenson. Arrangements were made, but I never did see him. He did tell me at one point that he wouldn't be able to make it if anything else came up because CID were so short-staffed. He has tried to get in touch with me a good few times. The last time was when he put a card through my door when I was out at work. I just put the card away and haven't bothered since. I haven't got back in touch because I find it too embarrassing. I decided that I would just to talk to the Inquiry and deal with it this way

134. Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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Impact

135. I didn't have a good life up until I was seventeen. I wouldn't have been in the situation I'm in now if it wasn't for [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I had to just go along with everything I was asked to do in the children's homes. There were no supports at all to help guide me through my teenage years, to help me with the problems I was having. There were times when I just hated myself. I was lonely. Most of the relationships I had were superficial, although some were strong, so I'm wary of trusting people.

136. I'm really awkward around birthdays and Christmas, because I don't like getting presents. My wife will tell people to give my presents to her and she'll give them to me later. I feel uncomfortable because I didn't get much growing up in children's homes.
137. I don't like sharing information about what happened to me in care. I wouldn't feel comfortable talking to a GP about my experiences. If it's not someone's actual job to deal with these things, I think that they just don't know enough about it. I am a talker though, so I pick up the phone to [REDACTED] and vent to him when I'm feeling frustrated. I can be on the phone to him for a couple of hours.
138. I love my wife to bits, but she only knows that I was in care and some brief details. I don't want her to think of me in any way other than how she knows me now. She was in the house when the police came to the door, but I didn't tell her everything I said to them.
139. I'm also a real worrier. The slightest thing on my mind keeps me awake. I sometimes think that I've put all the stuff that happened to me so far behind me, but then it comes out when you don't expect it. There's things that maybe did traumatise me. I was doing training at work and when it came to doing "holds" on me, I have honestly never flinched so much in all my life. That's when I realised that I had been assaulted all those times when I was restrained in Kerelaw.
140. I didn't get a good education in care. My last proper schooling was in Falkland. I have struggled with the theory side of every college course I've done. I was a barber for ten years and have been a young person's care worker for three years. I failed the theory side of my cookery, music and barbering courses. I always knew that I wanted to do the work I'm doing now. I started a National Certificate course in social care when I was eighteen, but I was still too much of a mess to even contemplate dealing with young people.
141. I promised myself I'd go back to it before I was thirty, and I started a course at Paisley when I was twenty-eight. I found the course so hard. The writing on the

theory side was the hardest thing I've ever had to do education-wise. I was tipped by one of the lecturers to be the one who would drop out, because I was working three jobs and had kids. I knew I had to work really hard and somehow I managed to do it. I came out with a 'B', which I think was good achievement. I have always liked the idea of being a social worker, but I could never go back to doing that amount of studying again. I love working with kids and I feel that as an adult who has been through the care system, I can try to find better solutions for them to make their outcomes a bit better.

Records

142. I was shown some records by the social worker when I was about twelve or thirteen. It was all quite secretive. She only brought what she wanted me to see. She did say to me that there was a lot of information that I wasn't allowed to see.
143. I've tried to get records, but it's just a pain going through the process. Back when I was emailing social work, they asked me if I wanted my records and gave me a number to phone. I did phone and they sent a form out. They were asking for specific dates and information. I just wanted to write down that I wanted the records covering my whole life. I just didn't know how to go about getting what I wanted. I'm now in contact with other people who are going to help me to get my records.
144. I want to know if anything was done about the female who sexually assaulted me. I have a vivid memory of that staff member walking in. I was only a young kid. The staff member should be accountable. I can't remember anything being done, but the records might show that something did happen. It might be logged in the records that a staff member walked in and saw what was happening.

Other information

- 145. Every kid in care was treated the same when I was a kid, which was wrong. Children and young people need to be treated as individuals and not just have the same label attached to them.

- 146. More work needs to be done to prepare kids for leaving care. There is some support there, but not enough work is done to prepare kids for adulthood. People take a step back when kids turn sixteen, as they're then considered to be adults who can pretty much make their own way in life.

- 147. There needs to be more done to make sure kids in care get a good education. The current solutions for kids with behavioural troubles, who can't manage mainstream school, are not good enough. I still see a lot of kids failing because of this. Unfortunately, I don't think there's ever going to be enough support available to solve this problem.

- 148. 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.

Signe FYY

Dated 9/5/18