

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

FIM

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is FIM. That was my name at birth. My date of birth is 1965. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I was living with my mum and dad in Glasgow. My mum's name was and my dad was
3. I had a big sister called who was four years older than me, and two younger sisters called and and a little brother called I later found out that I had a twin brother who had been adopted out when we were three months old. I don't know why he was adopted out. I have never met him. My sister told me about him when I was an adult.
4. We were a Roman Catholic family. had an Irish baptism in 1971 when he was a baby. I was six or seven years old at the time. On the day of the baptism, the mum and dad of the baby are supposed to dance together. My mum refused to dance with my dad and danced with another guy. My dad put a hatchet over my mum's head while the whole family was sitting there. The place was covered in blood. My granny let my mum out through the verandah and told her she better get out before he killed her.

5. My dad got taken to the police cells. He had a good lawyer called Michael Findlay and got away with it. He came back home a few days later. My mum never came back. We were told our mum was dead.
6. My dad went back to work, and my older sister and I were left to look after three kids in nappies. [REDACTED] was eleven years old and I was six or seven. We took turns changing their terry towelling nappies and making their bottles.
7. The Glasgow Corporation became involved. Somebody smashed the windows of our house in, and we left the house. I have no memories after that apart from going to Ireland because my dad was on the run from the Corporation. My next memory is being in Drumchapel. The Corporation had changed to the social work department, and social workers were visiting us.
8. I was coming home from school every day and sorting everything out. I was making the tea for my dad, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was calling me "Mum". [REDACTED] had been stolen by my mum from school while the rest of us were at the dentist one day. She obviously wasn't dead. [REDACTED] ran away because my dad had hit her with a chip pan. She ran away with a Protestant man and married him.
9. The first time we were taken into care was when my dad got lifted for shop-lifting. We were sent to Ailsa Children's Home in Glasgow.

Ailsa Children's Home, Glasgow

10. Secondary Institutions - to be published later
[REDACTED]
11. [REDACTED]

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25. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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28. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

I remember we were moved out in the middle of the night, and taken to Eglinton Children's Home. We were there for about two days and then taken back to stay with my dad.

Life back at home

29. We were sent back to my father at [REDACTED] in Drumchapel, Glasgow. He never served time in prison because he had a good lawyer.

30. My dad was not working by this time. The only thing my dad was doing was getting me and [REDACTED] ready for sex. We were being used as child prostitutes. I think I was just going into first year so was about eleven or twelve years old at the time. [REDACTED] was about nine years old. [REDACTED] was being abused too. He was about five years old. I

would try to make sure the kids were in bed so that it was me being abused and not them.

31. The men involved were called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. They are still alive. There was also a policeman involved, but I don't remember his name. I could recognise his face. They paid my dad to abuse us. My dad was also abusing us.
32. I found out later that another eight year old girl called [REDACTED] was also being abused by the same men. She lived on the same street and had the same social workers as me. She committed suicide when she was 32 years old.
33. There was also a 23 year old man called [REDACTED] who used to say that he was my boyfriend. At the time I thought he was being nice to me, but I can now see that he was grooming me and using me for sex. He knew what he was doing was wrong. I saw him in the [REDACTED] in Drumchapel, where he worked, and I went and hugged him. He got scared and said I would get him in trouble because I was just a kid and not to hug him in front of people.
34. The social workers were visiting all the time but were not noticing what was going on. I told a wee pal of mine. He was a Protestant. He got people together and started smashing the windows of our house. I took [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] in the middle of the night and sneaked out of the house. I took them down the lanes and sat outside the social work department until my social worker, Catriona Neil, turned up in the morning.
35. Marion Duncan was Catriona Neil's senior. I told them what was happening. Catriona Neil has written in my notes that I indicated that the three of us were being sexually abused by my dad and his cronies. I remember that Catriona wanted to send us back home to our dad, but Marion Duncan said no.
36. The social work department took us to the clinic for a check-up. We all got our hair cut. My hair was down to my waist and full of lice, so they cut it all off. We were all put into Eglinton Children's Home in Glasgow.

Eglinton Children's Home, Glasgow

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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61. We appeared before a children's panel after about three months in the home. It was decided that we should go back home to my dad. Catriona Neil has written in my notes that she felt sorry for my dad. This is after I had told her about the sexual abuse at home.

62. The three of us were put back with my dad and the same abuse was going on as before. After about two weeks, I knew I had to get us out of there. I took [REDACTED] and

██████ to the shops, and told them to start stealing things. I did the same. We got ourselves caught and social work got involved so we were put back to Eglinton.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Leaving Eglinton Home

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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88. [REDACTED] who was [REDACTED] at the home, came to me and said that I reminded her of herself when she was a teenager. [REDACTED] would give me cigarettes and stuff like that. She would explain to me what I needed to do to get out of there. She said she wanted to foster me but wasn't allowed to because she worked there, and it was against the rules. She told me I had to get out of the home if I wanted her to foster me, but first I needed to see if I liked her husband. [REDACTED] would send me out to meet her husband, ^{MTB}[REDACTED]. His real name was ^{MTB}[REDACTED]. I thought he was a nice man.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Roberton Assessment Centre

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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95. I was sent to Dr Guthrie's School in Edinburgh after nine weeks.

Dr Guthrie's List D School, Edinburgh

96. I was thirteen when I went to Dr Guthrie's, which was a school for girls. I turned up there with my social worker, Catriona Neil.

97. SNR [REDACTED] Mr MTA [REDACTED] strip-searched me when I first turned up. My social worker wasn't there during the strip-search. Nobody else was in the room.

98. I was made to strip and squat. He poked around a bit. He poked his finger in my back passage. He then told me to stand up and looked under my breasts, but I didn't have any breasts. He basically had a feel. I was told to put my clothes on, then I was taken up to the unit I was being placed in.

99. I saw [REDACTED] in my unit because she had also been moved there. The staff knew I was a staff-beater and were going to start on me. [REDACTED] butted in and stopped them doing it again so they backed off. Then [REDACTED] started bullying me herself.
100. There was a big swimming pool at Dr Guthrie's that we were allowed to use.
101. I was given plastic sandals. There were two kinds of sandals. There was a pair you could get with straps across them, and ones that were made up of squares. I took the ones with squares because I had in my mind that I was going to run away, and I needed ones that would stay on my feet.
102. We had to wear a uniform, so I was sent to the sewing room to make my own uniform. It was a blue skirt, blue jumper and blue cardigan.

Abuse at Dr Guthrie's

103. [REDACTED] became the bully and she bullied me constantly. My social worker had given me sweets, and [REDACTED] took them off me. She took my Kermit the Frog nightgown case which Mrs Johnston had given me. It was the only thing I had that was my own.
104. I smashed the window and I ran away. The school was connected to the police which I didn't know. I only got about a mile down the road and the police were on my tail. I was running like the clappers, but the police caught me and brought me back. When I got back, I was strip-searched by Mr ^{MTA} [REDACTED] again.
105. I ran away about twice a week during the five months I was there. Every time you ran away and were brought back by the police, you were strip-searched by Mr ^{MTA} [REDACTED]. I never learned my lesson and just kept running away. He would do the same thing to me every time I was brought back. It was constant abuse. He would have a feel of me, and I just never knew where, or in which hole, his fingers were going to go. He was an old parasite. He looked old to me. I don't know if he is still alive.

106. When you got back up to your unit after being brought back, the other kids would laugh and ask: "What hole did he play pokey with today?" Everybody knew what they were getting from him. He did this to other children too. There was no secret about it.

The sweat room

107. [REDACTED] just kept pushing her luck. I lost it completely and threw her over the balcony and into the swimming pool. I don't know how I had the strength, but I think you find it when you're angry. I got put into what they called the "sweat room", which was like a padded cell.
108. Another member of staff, whose name I can't remember, dragged me into the sweat room. She stripped me down to my pants and vest. There was another girl in there too. We had blankets. They would push our dinner into the room and not let us out. We didn't have anything to poo or pee in. We had to do it on the floor. We were in there for a week.
109. When I eventually got out, Mr ^{MTA} [REDACTED] told me to clean the cell. I asked him for things to clean it with, and he told me to clean it with my hands. I had to pick the shit up with my hands. He put my face in the piss. I told him: "You'll not break me," but to be honest, I think he did break me.
110. After I had cleaned the cell, he threw me into the shower to get washed. He told me to bend over and he had a play with me. He put his two fat fingers in both my front and back passage. He stood behind me and put his arm around my waist as if he was having sex with me while he was doing it. Then he said: "Now there's a clean lassie. Now get to your unit." I had to walk naked from the showers, passed other groups, passed the front door, and up to my unit. I hope he is dead.
111. There was nobody I could tell about what he was doing. They all knew.

Leaving Dr Guthrie's

112. I went to a children's panel in Glasgow after five months of being in Dr Guthrie's. My social worker took me through to Glasgow for it. That was when I found out that I was being fostered.
113. My dad was at the children's panel because he had to sign the papers. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] MTB who were fostering me were also there. My father said he wouldn't sign the papers unless he got a guarantee that I went to a Catholic school. He got the guarantee, signed the papers and left. I was fostered out.
114. The panel told me that I owed Dr Guthrie's £30,000 in damages for smashing windows while I was there. Mr [REDACTED] MTA had given the social work department a bill for that amount for the windows. I said: "Stick it up your arse," and I walked out.

Foster care – The [REDACTED] MTB-SPO

115. I was fourteen when I moved in with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] MTB. They stayed in Dumbarton. They were only in their thirties themselves. I was told to change my name to [REDACTED] FIM [REDACTED] MTB-SPO which I did.
116. When I went into the house, I went upstairs and saw my bedroom. It was gorgeous. It was like a wee princess room. It was the first proper bedroom I'd ever had. They didn't have children of their own so there were no other kids in the house. It was just me and them two. I felt welcomed by them. I knew I was going to go to Notre Dame School in Dumbarton
117. [REDACTED] MTB used to do the ironing, and he would iron my pants and bra too. I had started wearing a little starter bra. I thought it was weird. I felt weird when [REDACTED] was at work and he was there. Something didn't feel right and I didn't feel comfortable.

Abuse at the ^{MTB-SPO} [REDACTED]

118. ^{MTB} [REDACTED] used to ask me to come and sit on his lap. I was fourteen and you just didn't do that. Things like that made me shy away from ^{MTB} [REDACTED]. I told [REDACTED] and she said it was just because he hadn't had a child, and wanted to be a daddy to me. I said I had a dad. He might have been a bastard, but I had a dad.
119. ^{MTB} [REDACTED] would also want to come into the bathroom and wash my hair when I was having a bath. That was a no no for me and I told [REDACTED] but she said it was ok.
120. Then he started touching me in places he shouldn't have been touching me. I kept telling him to stop and that it wasn't right, but he kept doing it. He then started to kiss me. It was a proper, grown man, slobbery kiss, all over me. It wasn't nice at all. Then he started putting my hand down his trousers to play with his thing.
121. This would happen when [REDACTED] was at work. She was still working at Eglinton Home.
122. When [REDACTED] would go to the bingo, I would be in bed because I had school the next morning. ^{MTB} [REDACTED] would come into the bed beside me and start cuddling into me. He would start kissing me and kissing my body. He would put his fingers inside me.
123. I told [REDACTED] what he was doing but she said I was making it up. I started to run away, and I kept running away. The police would always bring me back. I told Catriona Neil I didn't want to stay with [REDACTED] and ^{MTB} [REDACTED] and what he was doing to me. She said they were a nice family and that Christian families don't do that, and that I should think myself lucky and not be so ungrateful.
124. It just kept going on so I started to reject ^{MTB} [REDACTED] and started being destructive. They still wouldn't put me in care. I kept telling ^{MTB} [REDACTED] to stop touching me and I didn't want to touch him. He would say that he was going to tell my real dad, and the people who sexually abused me, where I lived. I think that's why he got away with doing it to me. He wouldn't stop abusing me so I kept running away.

125. I was with the **MTB-SPO** for about a year before I was eventually put into care in Cardross Assessment Centre.

Cardross Assessment Centre, Dumbartonshire

126. I was fifteen when I went to Cardross. I was there for quite a while.

127. My sister, **██████████**, phoned while I was in there. She had gone back to my father and she told me my father had touched her again. I had told my father not to touch her.

128. I ran away from Cardross. I was going to steal **MTB** car. I knew **MTB** left his car keys underneath the bonnet of his car. I went to the house and waited until they were sleeping. Something made him go out to the car that night and I got found. I was taken back to Cardross. I was still on the Valium at this point.

Foster care – The **MTB-SPO**

129. I was sent back to live with the **MTB-SPO**.

130. I put all my anger and everything I had into my education. I did well at school. Nobody was going to believe me when I told them about the abuse. I was never going to get away from them. I saw no way out.

Reporting abuse in care

131. I told Catriona Neil about the sexual abuse that was happening at home, at the hands of my dad and other men. She still put me back to my dad after knowing that.

132. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

133. When I was moved from Glasgow to Kelvindale, I did tell Catriona Neil what ^{MTB} was doing to me, and she said: "Christians don't do that." I told her three to four times and I was dismissed every time. It's not right that a social worker can dismiss you like that.

Life after being in care

134. I went to Glasgow University and studied law. I got my own flat in Broomhill. I still couldn't get away from ^{MTB} I had given ^{MTB} a set of keys to my flat at Broomhill, but ^{MTB} would use them and come in after his night shift at work. He would let himself in and get into bed beside me. I was eighteen years old and still couldn't get away from him.

135. I felt as though I had been given the Valium for so long so that they could get me to do what they wanted to do. I wasn't enjoying my course at university. I might have enjoyed it better if I never had ^{MTB} on my back. I applied to Edinburgh to do nursing. I had read a lot about Valium and what it could do and wanted to come off it before going to Edinburgh.

136. I came off the Valium before going to Edinburgh. I was very jittery at first when I got to Edinburgh. I had to go to my doctor in Grangemouth and tell him the situation. I told him I had been reliant on Valium since I was twelve years old. He gave me a drug that off-balanced the Valium. He helped me. I got there.

137. I did my nursing and then I specialised in psychiatric nursing. I worked in Bellsdyke hospital in Larbert for quite a while. It has now closed down.

138. My first relationship was an aggressive relationship. It was with a man called [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who had been in Quarriers home in Glasgow. He was abusive but I understand that because of what he went through in Quarriers.
139. My second relationship was with [REDACTED] who was also abusive. We had a son called [REDACTED] I took to my son and motherhood straight away.
140. I suffered from post-natal depression. All my memories came back after that.
141. My third relationship was with my current partner, He is not abusive and we have been together for 25 years. He has been a father to [REDACTED] and we also had a daughter called [REDACTED] together.
142. I found it very difficult to take to my daughter when I had her. She is in university now and I still find it difficult to bond with her, but I am very protective of her. I was over-protective of both my children.
143. My dad died of an aneurism when I was 26 years old. I managed to find my sister [REDACTED] but she doesn't want to know me. She has contact with my real mother, who is still alive. [REDACTED] also has contact with my real mother. She doesn't want to know me either. I don't want anything to do with my mother.
144. I have contact with [REDACTED] I am not happy with her because she's not ready to tell her story. I don't think she is a survivor until she tells her story. If she would tell her story, the people who were paying my father to sexually abuse us when we were younger, would go to jail for it.
145. [REDACTED] ended up in foster care with a Minister. He didn't like it and ran away constantly. He ended up staying with my dad, which was the worst place he could have gone to. He ended up on drugs and was in Polmont by the time he was seventeen years old. He was raped twice in Polmont by another inmate. Catriona Neil was the boss there at the time. She managed to find me and tell me [REDACTED] was there. I can't believe she still wasn't managing to protect him.

146. [REDACTED] had three kids. He came to stay with me for a while when he split up from his partner. She didn't like that he was into the British National Party (BNP). I allowed him to stay with me but not to bring any of his BNP friends into my house. He respected my decision. He stayed with me for about three months, and then went to [REDACTED]
147. [REDACTED] was bipolar. I told [REDACTED] to look after him, but she threw him out after three weeks. He ended up on the streets and then in sheltered accommodation. He committed suicide when he was 41 years old. He couldn't take any more. Catriona Neil phoned me and told me, which is how I know she works in Polmont. That's all I want to say about [REDACTED] story. Let him lie in peace now.

Impact

148. I now have a broken coccyx and can't sit properly. I asked the doctor whether this could have happened from being sexually abused. The doctor said there was no way it could have happened from that. It has happened because of an injury. ^{Secondary Institut}
Secondary Institutions - to be published later
149. I have had 89 bones broken in my body, which haven't healed properly. That is through things my dad did ^{Secondary Institutions - to be published later}
Secondary Institutions - to be published later
150. I have an aneurism in my head, which is usually caused by an injury to the head. ^{Second}
Secondary Institutions - to be published later
151. I wasn't able to keep long nails for years after being made to clean the cells in Dr Guthrie's. When I did start growing my nails, I got OCD and I am always cleaning them. I get terrified and really upset if anything goes under my nails. All I can see is the shit under my nails if I get dirt under them.

152. I got post-natal depression and all my bad memories started to come back to me. I have been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder and depression. I was not able to leave my house for twenty years. I am still not able to go out. I get flashbacks.
153. My agoraphobia and depression has rubbed off on my son. My son is autistic and has ADHD. He also has agoraphobia and depression. He lives with me and doesn't go out.
154. I was not able to be affectionate with my kids until they were older, yet I breast-fed them both. I just found it very hard to show them something that I wasn't shown myself. I was very protective of them. My kids weren't allowed to go to the shop on their own until they were fifteen years old. They said I was too over-protective.
155. The social workers put me in care to get me away from my dad and the sexual abuse. I think they knew what was going on and separated us to see if we would talk. I lost all contact with my family. I had 72 family members as a child. I now have seventeen family members who I have managed to find.
156. This life has made me the most miserable bitch I have ever known anyone to be. Inside I am crying every single day of my life. I am looking for answers but I don't think I am going to get any.
157. I smile when I am with my daughter. I smile with my mouth, and I cry with my eyes. That is the only way I can explain my life.

Current Treatment

158. Cath from Open Secret counselled me over the phone for four years. I never met her and just spoke to her over the phone.
159. I didn't leave the house until last year. I eventually managed to go up to the Open Secret office in Stirling. It's not been easy. I have had a lot of psychiatric treatment and cognitive behaviour therapy. I am currently having eye movement de-sensitisation

and re-processing treatment. It has been quite effective. I have been told the next step in my treatment if anything else happens will be electric shock therapy.

160. I have a lot of medical problems. I have been diagnosed with ADHD and depression. I have had heart attacks and strokes. I have cataracts and can't see properly. I have recently been diagnosed with myotonic dystrophy, which curls all my bones up. This is a genetic condition. I take 29 tablets a day for my medical conditions.

Records

161. I have recently managed to obtain some of my social work records through Open Secret. There is a lot missing in them. They mention when I went to a children's panel and what homes I went to, but there is no information about what went on at panels or in the homes. There is nothing about the social work visits to my dad's house either.
162. My mum is mentioned a lot in the records, which is strange as my mum wasn't in my life. I think they may have got me confused with my sister, [REDACTED] who stayed with my mum. My father isn't mentioned at all in my records.
163. I am going to try and get the rest of my records.

Police reporting

164. I reported [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], who sexually abused me when I lived with my dad in Drumchapel. I reported them to the police a few years ago and I think it was at Partick Police Station. The police took the two men in for questioning and they denied it.
165. My older sister, [REDACTED], stuck up for the two men. She wasn't abused by them and they helped her when she ran away. [REDACTED] who was abused, wouldn't speak to the police or be a witness so the men got away with it.

166. I also reported the policeman who was involved in Drumchapel, but the police said that policemen don't do things like that. The police were not very good and didn't handle it very well. When they phoned [REDACTED] who lives in England now, they weren't very nice to her. She won't talk to the police.
167. I complained to the police about ^{MTB}[REDACTED] at the same time. I know that the police have been to see him and taken him in for questioning.. He denied any abuse. He is still alive and has two kids now who are older, and it is likely that he has grandkids.

Other information

168. Secondary Institutions - to be published later
[REDACTED]
169. [REDACTED]
170. My social worker, Catriona Neil, was with the Corporation first, and then she was called a social worker when things became Council-run in 1972. She has plenty of experience and now works at Polmont Young Offenders Institute. She will have a different surname now as she's since been married.
171. [REDACTED] is still alive and probably still in Glasgow. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are still alive and living in Drumchapel. The police told me that. My dad is dead.
172. I have a feeling that ^{MTB}[REDACTED] might sue me for defamation or something if the police go to his door again, but I think "let him". I have nothing anyway. He's taken all he can from me and left me with memories that I will never forget. All I have is memories and they are not so good.

Final thoughts

- 173. I hope the Inquiry will make things better for other children. I hope that when kids and families are put into care, that they have things explained to them. I hope that siblings are never pulled apart from each other, because it is the worst thing people can do to them.

- 174. Every child should have things explained things to them, no matter how old they are. They are much more street wise now and can understand things. They should be involved in meetings about them.

- 175. 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 *11.11.2019*