

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

FDT
[REDACTED]

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is FDT [REDACTED] and my date of birth is [REDACTED] 1963. I am 54 years old. My contact details are known to the inquiry.

Background

2. I've stayed at my current address for 18 years. I am unemployed and on disability benefits. My partner is [REDACTED] and I have two sons from my previous marriage who are 32 and 21 years old.
3. My mum was called [REDACTED], though she was known as [REDACTED]. She is now dead. [REDACTED] was alleged to be my father but his name isn't on my birth certificate. I have two half-sisters who are [REDACTED] aged 66, and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who is 55. We all had the same mum.

Life before being put into care

4. I went into care twice when I was young. I was going to stay with my gran's cousin in Auchinleck. They were going to adopt me but their marriage broke up and that fell through.
5. My mum stayed in [REDACTED] Dumfries. I don't remember it myself but my big sister says it was just us three girls and mum at home. I never really got the exact

reason why I was put into care. I know that [REDACTED] was charged with assaulting my mum. He wanted to see me but my mum wouldn't let him.

6. My sister says that my mum tried to get me adopted through the Salvation Army. She also says that she came home from school one day and asked, "Where's [REDACTED]?" to which my mum replied, "She's gone. Don't mention her name again".

Moving to foster care

7. As far as I am aware, it was the social work who arranged for me to go to [REDACTED] I don't know to what extent my mum was involved. My sister [REDACTED] went to stay with my gran. My sister [REDACTED] was the only daughter that my mum kept.

[REDACTED] Dumfries

8. I stayed with [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] Dumfries from 1964 or 1965 until 1977. Their first names were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. They were both elderly; well into their sixties. Mrs [REDACTED] said that I was put into care because my mum battered me but the social work deny this. They changed my name to [REDACTED] though my surname of [REDACTED] remained on my birth certificate.
9. There were other kids who stayed with [REDACTED] on and off and my sister [REDACTED]'s son stayed there for a short while. They had also adopted a girl called [REDACTED] but she was grown up and married by the time I got there. [REDACTED] did not have children of their own.
10. Sometimes families, like two sisters, would stay with them for a short time and I recall a boy called [REDACTED] who stayed with them. I don't think there was ever a question of [REDACTED] adopting me.

11. The house itself was a ground floor flat with three bedrooms. JAX/JAY had a bedroom each. They didn't sleep together. I don't now recall where the kids who came and went would sleep when they were there. It was a council owned flat and I think there were nine other flats in the block.
12. My first memory is probably at the age of four and going to the wedding of their adopted daughter

Routine at JAX/JAY

13. I don't remember much of the routine, though I recall that Mrs JAX would do my hair in the morning. I also recall that me and her would watch the wrestling on a Saturday while eating kippers. I don't think I could simply watch telly whenever I wanted.
14. I don't recall when I had to go to bed. Sometimes I would sleep in the back bedroom and sometimes I slept in with Mrs JAX I do recall I got a bath once a week.
15. When I had free time I would play on the landing doing skipping and playing marbles or looking at scraps. I also had a wee record player.

Visits

16. I didn't get visits as such but sometimes my mum would come to the school to see me. She didn't actually speak to me, she just came to look at me. I don't know why she didn't come to JAX/JAY to see me. They probably wouldn't let her. Also, the woman who was a friend of my gran, would come and see me at Christmas.
17. Fiona Douglas was my social worker at the time, then a Mrs Crabbie. I think before them it was a Mrs Clydesdale. I don't recall seeing them much when I was with the JAX/JAY I'm sure I did see them but I don't recall it. There was an occasion when Mrs

JAX alleged that I had tried to shove her in the fire. I'm sure Fiona Douglas came to the house at that time.

Schooling

18. I went to Lochside primary school til primary 7 then Maxwelltown Academy for a year. I seem to recall that I liked school because I felt safe and could see my pals. The school knew I was in foster care but I don't think it caused them to treat me any differently.
19. Primary school was okay but I found it difficult to concentrate and tended to daydream a lot. Also, I wanted to wear the same sort of clothes as the other kids but JAX/JAY only bought me old-fashioned stuff.
20. Although I seem to recall that the headmaster in secondary school was supportive of me, I don't recall them doing anything to look at what was happening to me in the foster house. Then again, I suppose it should have been the social work who should have been doing that.
21. I recall that when I went to Maxwelltown Academy, I was bullied a lot. I had to hand over money to the bullies so that they could buy their cigarettes.

Birthdays/Christmas

22. I must have got Christmas presents because I remember finding them under the bed. I got battered for that. Other than that, I don't recall much about Christmas though I recall Mr JAY once built me a doll's house. I remember they got me a bike but I don't recall treats or going to the pictures. I don't recall any birthday celebrations.

Pocket money

23. I don't recall getting any pocket money.

Medical/Dental

24. I know I got to see a doctor whenever I required one but I don't recall ever seeing a dentist.

Abuse

25. At JAX/JAY I was treated as a slave doing all the cleaning and washing up. I used to have to run after her all the time.
26. Two of my pals, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] told me that they came to the door for me one time and they saw Mr JAY battering me though I don't actually remember this. They tried to get in the door but couldn't so went to get another pal's mum, [REDACTED] to get Mr JAY off me. I was about eleven or twelve at this time. My pals said that they also reported this to the school.
27. Mrs JAX was taken into hospital once which left Mr JAY to look after me. It was in the back bedroom that he raped me. I only recall this happening the once but I've been told by Rape Crisis that that means it probably happened more than once.
28. I'm not sure how old I was when Mr JAY raped me. The back bedroom was the room that I was using. I don't recall anybody else being in the house at the time.
29. EXK [REDACTED] lived in the flat upstairs. At the time, I was getting bullied at school and used to hand over money to the bullies. I got the money from EXK [REDACTED]. What happened was that he used to come to my bedroom window each night. I'm not sure how old I was. He would grope me and give me 2p for it. He was basically grooming me. I'm not sure how long this went on for, but it was a long time.

30. I was also in EXK [REDACTED] flat one time when he had his private parts out and tried to enter me. I remember it was sore. I can't be sure if this happened before or after I was raped by Mr JAY [REDACTED]
31. Mrs JAX [REDACTED] battered me regularly with a tawse. She would hit me all over the body and would do it for any reason. She kept saying I was "a naughty lassie" and she once claimed I tried to push her into the fire which was nonsense.
32. I remember once Mrs JAX [REDACTED] hit me on the head. I had long hair and wore Kirby grips. When she hit me one of the Kirby grips got lodged in my ear and the doctor had to take it out. I've still got problems with my hearing.
33. I don't think she hit me in front of others, though she did call me names in front of others. I can't remember if she hit me in front of Mr JAY [REDACTED] but, then again, he spent most of his time in the garden.
34. I always felt unwanted and didn't want to be there. Social work kept saying that I shouldn't be in a house with such old people and that I should have been moved. I saw this in my records years later.
35. I got no love from JAX/JAY [REDACTED] I was just a slave and not allowed to mix with other people. I used to jump out of the window to play with my pals. I did this to get away and because JAX/JAY [REDACTED] would lock the door to stop me getting out.
36. The other kids that came and went couldn't have been there very long as I don't have a great recollection of them. The only reason that JAX/JAY [REDACTED] kept me there was so I could do their bidding. I have no good memories of my time at JAX/JAY [REDACTED]
37. I always thought that Mrs JAX [REDACTED] wanted rid of me but Mr JAY [REDACTED] wanted me to stay.

Bedwetting

38. I used to wet the bed sometimes and when I did, Mrs JAX would shout at me. I don't recall who thereafter would wash the sheets but it was probably me.

Reporting of abuse

39. I think my friend [REDACTED] was the first person I spoke to about the abuse I had suffered and that was about twenty years ago. I have never reported the abuse to the police. I did talk to a solicitor about it when I was getting a divorce but then another solicitor took over and he just said that it had happened too long ago to matter.
40. I did try to tell my husband before he left, but he wasn't interested.
41. I did tell a social worker called Fiona Douglas about the abuse I suffered but this was years after it had happened and nothing was done about it.

Leaving JAX/JAY [REDACTED]

42. I think I left JAX/JAY [REDACTED] after Mrs JAX told the social work that she no longer wanted me to be there.
43. After I left JAX/JAY [REDACTED] I went to various places. First I went to Merkland Home in Moffat and after that I went to stay with the [REDACTED] family at [REDACTED] farm. I don't know how long I was there for but it was when I was there that Mrs JAX died. The social work took me to her funeral.
44. After the [REDACTED] I went to Wendy House children's home and then to another foster home with the [REDACTED] who stayed at [REDACTED] After them, I went back to

stay with my mum but that only lasted five days. My mum accused me of stealing her purse which I hadn't.

45. Social work tried then to get me back in with the [REDACTED] but couldn't so I got sent to [REDACTED] near Thornhill. From there, I went to another foster home which was the [REDACTED] who stayed in [REDACTED]
46. After that, I got sent to the [REDACTED] in [REDACTED]. Throughout my time in all the above places I have no recollection of dealing with the children's panel.
47. I wasn't abused in any of these places but I know there were signs in my behaviour that should have indicated to social workers that something had been wrong with my time staying with [REDACTED] JAX/JAY. I ended up going to three different secondary schools because I kept changing foster homes.
48. I left the care system when I turned 18 or as the social work put it, "your file is closed".

Life after foster care

49. When I was 18, I stayed at a nursing home working and worked at an old folk's home. I had various work placements. I then met my sons' dad, [REDACTED]. My son [REDACTED] was born when I was 22. [REDACTED] was abusive to me for about 20 years and was in and out of prison.
50. My son [REDACTED] was born with brittle bone disorder and I had to spend a lot of time looking after him. I took quite ill having [REDACTED]
51. At no time after I left foster care, did I get any transitional help from any social worker. I turned 18 and they simply handed me my birth certificate. They told me they were there if I wanted to speak to them but there was no practical help.

Impact

52. I have suffered depression and had auto-immune hepatitis when my son [REDACTED] was born. I had a heart attack at 36. I can't show my kids love because I never got any myself.
53. I struggle with that and have never kissed and cuddled them or told them I loved them. I feel that that has also impacted on them and that they now struggle with relationships.
54. I feel as if I've had depression all my life and I feel as if the whole system has let me down. The names that Mrs JAX used to call me left me with no self-confidence which has affected me my whole life.
55. When I met [REDACTED] I ended up in an abusive relationship which I found difficult to get out of because it was the closest thing I had ever had to love. I put up with his abusive behaviour and the fact he had affairs.
56. I got involved with my sister when I was 50 and tried to help her but she just dumped me. I feel I am just an object to folk who thereafter dump me at the smallest thing. I feel I can't trust folk.
57. I also feel that changing schools so often had a big impact on my education.
58. I think of my time in care all the time. I feel as if my life is a failure and that there are no answers. I never had any sort of relationship with my mum before she died about ten years ago.

Records

59. Ten years ago, I went to the social work department to get my records because I had attended Rape Crisis and they said they wanted to see them. I met with Daniel McKeever, a senior social worker, who sat with me as I read them. I told him I had been abused by JAX/JAY and he said that the records seemed to support this and that the system had failed me.
60. As far as I am concerned, this shows that the social work knew what was happening to me but did nothing about it. The records don't explicitly say I was sexually abused but there were things written in my records that were clear indications and signs of what was going on. These signs should have been picked up on.

Counsel/Support

61. I saw a psychologist on 3 occasions for a while. All they said was they couldn't do anything about my past. They said I was just to take tablets for the rest of my life. The psychologist tried to send me to the Kaleidoscope Group but they dealt with schizophrenics and it was like a children's home which was the last sort of place I wanted to be. That would have made me worse.
62. I have also attended Rape Crisis. I first went to them about ten years ago. I went because I was depressed. I had just met my present partner and was worried about getting into another serious relationship.
63. I don't think Rape Crisis were a big help to me. I feel they would have been more helpful if I had had some sort of mental disorder but, to me, it seems that if you're normal, you don't get the same level of help. I only went a few times.

Lessons to be learned

- 64. I wouldn't want anybody to go through what I endured but fortunately I think things have changed.

- 65. 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. FDT

Dated..... 17/11/17