

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

FDZ [REDACTED]

Support person present: No

1. My full name is FDZ [REDACTED] My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1994. I am 23 years old. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I was born in the Springboig area of Glasgow. I lived with my parents who were called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].
3. I was the second youngest of six children. I had an older sister and three older brothers. [REDACTED] was about twelve or thirteen years older than me, then it was [REDACTED] who was ten years older than me. [REDACTED] was the next oldest and then it was [REDACTED] who was five or six years older than me. My wee brother, [REDACTED], was about a year younger than me.
4. Me and my little brother had the same dad. The four older ones had a different dad.
5. I went into care when I was two years old so I don't have any memory of my life with my parents. I have obtained my records and it seems from them that my mum was a binge drinker. My dad was drinking too and there were a lot of fights in the house.
6. I believe that my older siblings had been in and out of care before I came along. When I went into care, all of my siblings were taken into care too.

Foster care in Bishopbriggs, Glasgow

7. I moved to a house in Bishopbriggs in Glasgow with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. This is the first place I remember. My older siblings were placed in different care settings but I don't know where.
8. I only remember certain wee things. The three of us shared a room. [REDACTED] had a bed in an alcove in the room, and [REDACTED] and I had a cot. I think I was three years old.
9. They seemed like nice people. I remember they had a trampoline that you could hold on to and I would go round it with my scooter. They lived on a grassy hill with a path below it. I remember coming off the scooter and going head first into the wall. I remember [REDACTED] shouting "Dad, Dad." The foster father came out of the garage and took me to hospital in the next door neighbour's car.
10. I remember waking up one morning, and the bunny rabbit died with his paw in the cage. That's all I remember of that place.
11. My records show that I was at a school in Bishopbriggs but I don't remember it.
12. It turns out my foster carers weren't nice people because my mum later told me that we were moved from there because [REDACTED] had been abused there. He had been hit or something by the foster father.
13. According to my records, I was placed in a school in Stirling. I think it was like a children's home. I was placed in there for about 21 days when I was five years old. I have no memory of that so I don't know if it is true that I was there.
14. [REDACTED] and I then went to different foster carers.

Foster care – [JBV/JBW]

15. I was five years old and [] was four years old when we went to stay with [JBV/JBW]. They lived at [] in Knightswood, Glasgow.
16. I remember arriving at my new foster home. The social worker took me and [] I think the social worker at the time was Linda Wilson. She was our social worker for the full time we were in Knightswood. Linda Wilson's team leader was Jackie Sheeran so it could have been her who took us to the new foster home.
17. The foster parents, who were called [JBV/JBW], had bought us one of those yellow and red plastic cars. I saw that when I arrived. The rest of my earlier memories are vague. I don't really remember things until I was ten years old.
18. We lived in an upstairs and downstairs house with [JBW] and [JBV]. There were two bedrooms and the bathroom upstairs, and the dining room, living room and kitchen were downstairs. Me and [] shared a bedroom for a while. The dining room eventually got turned into my room when I was in high school. This was just because of our age and I needed my own room.
19. [JBW] and [JBV] didn't have any children of their own. They had a dog. They wanted us to call them "Mum" and "Dad" so that's what we called them. I think it was more for the outside world. They didn't want people to know that we were fostered. We didn't know a lot about being fostered until we were older and had left.

Routine

20. There were no kind of house rules about knocking before coming into my room. [JBW] and [JBV] would just walk in without knocking. Most of the time the door to my room would be open during the day because it was attached to the living room.

21. We had normal chores to help clean the stairs and Hoover the living room. We also just had to clean up after ourselves.
22. We could help ourselves to food in the kitchen when we wanted to. JBV and JBV did the cooking. We also just took a bath or shower whenever we wanted to. There were no rules about things.

School and homework

23. We went to school at St Ninian's. We were then made to move school when I was in primary six. We were made to move to Temple Primary School because JBV said it was easier for her to get to work from there after dropping us off at school. I didn't want to move school and was in tears about that. I was about ten years old.
24. The social worker never spoke to me about it, but my social work records say that I had been asked about it.
25. JBV told the social work that the reason she made us move school was because of bullying. That wasn't true. It was because it was easier for JBV. I actually started to get bullied by a boy when I moved to Temple Primary. I would end up in tears because I was so angry.
26. One day the bullying got too much and the boy put his knee into the back of my leg. This was at the end of the day and I was in tears. I had had enough and I told the teacher. My friend got JBV who was outside, and JBV came into the school. I can't remember what happened because we were in primary seven and almost going into secondary school.
27. I went to Knightswood Secondary School. The boy who used to bully me in primary went to the same secondary and was in my registration class. He carried on his bullying and was eventually made to move class.

28. I enjoyed school. I hated maths but I think that was because JBW was a maths teacher. He worked at ██████████ Secondary School. I tried to ask him for help me with my maths at home, but he would scream and shout at me if I didn't know an answer. He would tell me I was stupid and he didn't have any patience with me.
29. I think it was frustrating for JBW that he was a maths teacher and I couldn't do maths. When I failed a maths test at school, I knew I would get in trouble for it when I went home. He would shout at me and say he couldn't understand how I could fail maths when he was there to help me. I think he was blind to his own behaviour.
30. JBW would sometimes just do my English homework for me because he didn't have the patience to explain things. It would become a screaming match and then he would just do it for me.
31. JBV would sometimes be there when JBW was shouting at me, but she didn't do anything. She couldn't stand up to him. ██████████ got it in the ear from JBW once as well.
32. JBW tutored some of the children of family friends. He didn't react in the same way with them. JBW had one personality in the house with us and another personality for other people. JBV was the same. They both played completely different people around other people. They knew how to please people and act like they were perfect, but they were horrible in the house with us.
33. JBV took me to a speech therapist because she noticed that I wasn't pronouncing some words properly.
34. I ended up not liking school and not wanting to be there. This was a mixture of what was going on at home and not fitting into certain groups at school. I struggled with French. JBV wrote a letter to school asking if I could do something else because I was seeing a speech therapist, and struggled with English, let alone French. The school didn't let me change.

35. I did standard grades and passed some of them.

Birthdays and Christmas

36. Birthdays and Christmases were good. We were spoiled at times.
37. We didn't get as much if we were going on holiday, which was fair enough. One year we were going to Benidorm on Boxing Day so we got less presents. I remember [REDACTED] got a football strip and I was annoyed because I got less things than him. He got more spoiled than me.
38. We went to mass the odd time at Christmas. Other than that, religion didn't really play a part in our lives because the [REDACTED] weren't very religious. I had been baptised with my mum, and had my first holy communion at St Ninian's. [REDACTED] didn't get that because we moved school. My mum wasn't happy about that.
39. I would have friends round for my birthday or go out for dinner. It was the same as the other kids got for their birthdays.

Holidays

40. We went abroad quite a lot, or to the Lake District. They were good trips. I liked going to the Lake District because I always got a new book when I was there.

Visits and Inspections

I was able to see my mum about once a fortnight through the social worker. Me and [REDACTED] would meet her in the contact centre or in McDonalds. We would only meet my mum, and she would sometimes bring [REDACTED] along. We never saw [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and my dad was never around.

41. None of our real family was allowed to come to our house. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] wouldn't allow it. They didn't want us to see our real family.

42. Conversation with my mum was hard because she didn't know what to ask us, and we didn't know what to say to her. The relationship was hard to build on when we were younger.
43. Social work didn't organise any contact with our siblings. My sister then fought with a lawyer to be able to see us too and she was allowed to. It was easier with my sister because she was closer in age and we had more to chat about.
44. My mum was still drinking on and off. I don't know if she got any support from the social work. I think she tried to get help from other places.
45. My mum came to one of the contacts whilst drunk. We were waiting on Argyle Street in Glasgow with the social worker and a heavily pregnant woman who was going to observe the contact. The social worker had received a call from my mum's key worker to say that my mum had found her friend dead that morning, and there was a possibility she would turn to drink because of what she'd seen. My mum turned up drunk. She tried to give us a cuddle and the social worker stopped her, but we wanted a cuddle.
46. My mum kicked off and started calling the social worker every name under the sun. The social worker took us away from her. I was a bit taken aback. I was upset because my mum was upset and wanted to look after her. I understand now that the social worker just wanted us away from my mum, but I didn't understand at the time.
47. JBV and JBW didn't want us to see our real family. They tried to cut it out or wanted it to be written contact. They told social work that we would be upset after meetings. A safeguarder got involved to get statements from everyone. That backfired on my foster carers because we said the opposite and told the safeguarder that we wanted to see my mum more.
48. Contact with my mum stayed the same after the safeguarder's report. We would see my mum for a few hours once a fortnight. My sister would come to meet us too but

she had to pre-arrange it with the social workers if she wanted to bring her kids. She wanted us to build a relationship with her kids but the social workers thought it took the focus of the contact away from us.

49. We didn't have enough trust with the social workers to talk to them. I didn't feel like I could speak openly to the social workers or that I would be believed. I didn't remember them asking me directly if I was happy or not. I felt [JBW] and [JBV] had more authority. We saw the social workers usually around the time we had contact with our family. The only time we would spend alone was in the taxi journey to and from contact.
50. I sometimes saw the social worker alone, but that was if she specifically asked to speak to me alone when she came to the house. We would talk in my room and she would ask me how things were and what we had been up to. I don't know how many times that would have happened, but when it did, [JBV] would straight away ask me what we'd talked about afterwards.
51. [JBW] and [JBV] would tell us what we could and could not talk about before panels. We didn't go to all the panel meetings. Sometimes we would be at school. [JBW] and [JBV] wouldn't go to all of them either.

Clothes and social life

52. I can't remember if we took any of our own clothes with us when we went into foster care. We lived with them for ten years so they bought all of our clothes.
53. I had some choice about what I was allowed to buy and wear, but I had to always be nice and neat.
54. [REDACTED] would get designer trainers that were about £60, but I would get the cheaper trainers that would be about £15. That led to me being bullied at school. It was very noticeable sometimes how we were dressed differently. I never questioned it.

55. We would get money to go shopping or to go to the cinema. We would get it if we asked for it. I would sometimes be allowed to go out if I wanted to.
56. I was allowed to have friends come to the house, but they weren't allowed to stay over. I was not allowed to ever stay the night at my friends' houses, even though one of my friends only lived two streets away. I don't know why not.

Abuse in foster care – JBV/JBW

57. JBW and JBV were violent.
58. I always had to look nice and neat. I wasn't allowed to wear tracksuit bottoms unless it was my dance uniform. I didn't realise that I had naturally curly hair because JBV always straightened my hair. She would make me put make up on before we went out anywhere. She would do that when I was twelve or thirteen years old.
59. One day I put rollers in my hair and kept them in overnight. When I took them out in the morning, JBV didn't like it. She dragged me by the hair and stood me in front of the mirror and said "Look at the state of you." We were supposed to be going to her sister's house for her birthday, but she said she couldn't take me anywhere looking like that. She then stormed out of the house and left me and JBW
60. I decided that I had had enough and threw everything off my desk onto the floor and started packing my things to leave. I was about twelve or thirteen years old. JBW asked me what I was doing and I said I was leaving. JBV then came back and took us to her sister's house. Her sister commented that my hair looked nice, and I told her JBV hadn't liked it. That was me being a bit of a witch, saying that in front of JBV.

61. I was treated differently from [REDACTED] I got into trouble a lot more. I would also get in trouble more when I was playing with other cousins at [REDACTED] JBV's mum's or sister's house. Even the cousins noticed it.
62. JBV [REDACTED] would tell me that I was going to end up like my mum with seven different kids to seven different fathers. I couldn't do right for doing wrong with her. She would moan that others at work bragged about their children, but she couldn't do that because we didn't do anything for her to brag about. We would tell her that [REDACTED] was doing Boys' Brigade and I was winning dance competitions so there were things she could say.
63. JBW [REDACTED] would lose his temper quite easily with both of us. [REDACTED] got it more than I got it from JBW. One day, when [REDACTED] was about eleven or twelve years old, he was messing about in the kitchen and answering back to JBW. JBW stormed into the kitchen, grabbed [REDACTED] by the throat and held him up against the wall. [REDACTED] feet were off the floor. JBV [REDACTED] was in tears and trying to get JBW to stop, but there was nothing she could do. I think she was scared of JBW.
64. One night when I was fourteen years old, JBW [REDACTED] had heard me on the phone in my room. He would stand outside my door and listen. He came in and I hid my phone under my bed. He asked me where my phone was and I said it was in my school bag. He told me to get it so I hid the phone in the waist band of my pyjamas and went to my school bag on the floor, and pretended to scramble around to find it. JBW [REDACTED] was sitting behind me on the bed and told me to hurry up, and then he kicked me in the back.
65. I said I needed to go to the toilet and ran upstairs. I text my boyfriend at the time and said that JBW [REDACTED] had heard me on the phone and asked him not to phone me back. I then deleted all the text messages. I went downstairs and managed to sneak the phone into my school bag. JBW [REDACTED] took the phone and I went to bed.

Pregnancy and termination

66. I was seeing a boy when I was fourteen years old. He was sixteen years old and I felt pregnant. I went to the doctor with my friend to discuss my options and a termination. They booked me in to see a gynaecologist. When I went to see a psychologist, she saw my medical records. I said that I had gone to see a doctor about a termination but then I changed my mind. The psychologist said that was backed up by the fact that I never went to any other appointments.
67. I wasn't planning on telling JBV I was pregnant. Me and my boyfriend agreed not to tell them. His parents knew that we wanted to keep the baby, but my boyfriend's mother came round to the house and told JBV. I think she felt JBV had a right to know.
68. I ran away to my boyfriend's house one night. JBV and [REDACTED] came looking for me and found his house. I told my boyfriend not to let her take me away because I would just get hit for running away when I got home. I said it in front of JBV and she was telling me not to be stupid and to get home.
69. JBV took me away and my boyfriend asked that he be kept updated about what was happening with the baby. JBV said she would keep him updated. When we got home, JBV asked why I said I was going to get hit, and I said because I knew I would. She then took my phone off me and said that my boyfriend wouldn't be finding out anything about the baby. She then started to ask me why I had been upstairs in the bedroom.
70. JBV was upset about the whole situation. She told me I was silly and that we needed to speak to someone. We went to see someone in a building near Strathclyde University. The woman at the meeting made me take another pregnancy test and told me to discuss the pros and cons of the pregnancy and keeping the baby.
71. JBV booked me into a sexual health clinic at Sandyford Place in Glasgow. JBV took me to the appointment and made me put a different surname on my form. I am guessing this was to hide the truth so that I wouldn't flag up on any system and

nobody would know. At the appointment they checked how far along in the pregnancy I was.

72. My boyfriend came over one night and JBW and JBV had a go at him. They asked him what school, their family and social work would all think and say about it. They asked what kind of person he was and what kind of person gets a girl pregnant. They were making out he was a pervert and it was his fault. We told them that it was a mutual thing and I had consented. He ended up leaving the house in tears.
73. JBV kept saying that it was my decision to keep the baby if I wanted, but then saying what about them, and what about her family. I knew deep down that she was just saying it was up to me, but that it wasn't. We didn't have a discussion about the pros and cons and I wasn't asked what I wanted. It was more about them and what people would think, because I wasn't the perfect child that she wanted. None of it was about me. It was about what they wanted.
74. JBV took me to all my appointments after that. Whenever she took me to the clinic in Sandyford, she made me wear a tracksuit, and have my hair tucked into my top, and wear a hat. I was to look messy and unclean and keep my head down so that nobody would recognise me. The discussions at the appointments all led to me having a termination.
75. I was given a tablet to take to start the termination process. I tried to hold it in my mouth for as long as I could without swallowing it because I didn't want a termination. JBV made sure I swallowed it. The next part was the hospital procedure.
76. My brother was told that I had an appointment at the dental hospital. He was told to tell everyone at school that. My best pal knew the truth because she was friends with my boyfriend.
77. I was in hospital from first thing in the morning until 7pm at night, and the termination procedure was carried out. JBV stayed with me all day. There was not really

any conversation or affection. She did tell me not to look when I gave birth. She wanted me to have the implant contraceptive put in my arm that day before I left, so I had to have that.

78. On the way out of the hospital and in the car home, I was told to slouch down in the car so nobody would see me. I was to go straight to my room when I got home so that [REDACTED] wouldn't know anything. Everything had been hidden from him.
79. After that, it was almost as if it was done and dusted, and dealt with. I had the next day off school. I phoned my boyfriend to tell him what had happened. He said he knew that would happen.
80. I didn't speak to anybody about it. I just knew not to. We were grown up knowing what to discuss with people.

JBW [REDACTED] *and sexual abuse*

81. JBW used to come into my rooms at nights. This was when I was eleven years old. He would have a carry on with me but he would lift my top up and touch me under my top.
82. I got a pink Nokia phone for my twelfth birthday. If I was to get it early, he was putting his hand up my top. I knew it wasn't right. I would shout on [REDACTED] to come out of his room, pretending it was a carry on thing. I thought it would stop if [REDACTED] came into the room, which it did.
83. My bedroom door would be shut at night, but I know that JBW would come into the living room and watch porn. I know that because there was a glass cabinet against the wall, and if I opened my bedroom door slightly, I could see the reflection from the TV on it. Sometimes I would get up to go to the toilet, he would switch the TV off or jump up and try and hide what he was watching on the telly.

84. When I was about fourteen years old, I used to wake up at nights and he would be there leaning over me. I would wriggle myself around. Then he would put the light on and ask why I wasn't sleeping. I would say that I couldn't sleep and then he would come back through with a pill and water to help me get to sleep.
85. JBW would check my washing basket before I went to bed to see if I had taken my underwear off. He would tell me to wear a nightie dress to bed some nights. Sometimes when I woke up, some buttons on my pyjama top would be undone. Sometimes my nipples would have little cuts on them. I would feel like something wasn't right.
86. I tried to put a wooden chair against my door at night, but it wasn't heavy enough to keep the door shut. Sometimes I would wake up at night and he would hide in the kitchen to pretend that he wasn't there. There was an alcove in the kitchen beside the freezer, and he would hide there because I couldn't see him when I looked into the kitchen. This would be after he had been in my room.
87. I think JBW was coming into my room almost every night. A lot of it was a blur especially after whatever tablet he would give me. He would give me one whenever I woke up. I worked out afterwards, when I moved away, that he was probably giving me one of [REDACTED]'s ADHD tablets, which were supposed to help him sleep at night. They were the only pills that were in the kitchen. We later worked out that some of [REDACTED]'s pills were missing.
88. I told JBV [REDACTED] one day when we went to Braehead after I had had an exam. We were sitting at a coffee table and I told her that JBW was coming into my room at nights and hovering over me. She looked confused and said it was strange. She never came back to me to discuss it again. It was just swept under the carpet until the next time I told her. I must have told her about it on three different occasions. There was still no reaction from her. I just got a confused, puzzled look from her.
89. We went on holiday to Benidorm on Boxing Day in 2009 and stayed over the New Year. Me and [REDACTED] had been sharing a room. One day on holiday, [REDACTED]

said: "I saw JBW sitting on your bed last night." He said this in front of two boys we had met on holiday and I just laughed it off. I didn't know what I was supposed to say in front of two random strangers.

90. I told JBV that [REDACTED] had seen JBW sitting on my bed at night. She had a word with JBW that night in their room. I heard her asking him but I didn't hear his response.
91. JBW kept on coming into my room at night even after we came back from holiday. One night I thought I would stay up to see what was happening. I stayed awake and I realised that it was sexual abuse that was happening. He put his hands down my trousers and put his finger inside of me. At that point I just froze. My body had frozen stiff. Then I came out of it and started to wriggle my body around. JBW left my room and went into the kitchen. He then came back into my room to try and put his hand up my top. I started to wriggle around again pretending that I was starting to wake up from my sleep. He then left the room.
92. I knew what was happening wasn't right. I was confused. What are you supposed to do when someone who is looking after you does this to you? I didn't feel like I could tell JBV I didn't know what she would do if I told her. The next night I text a boy I was speaking to in Kirkintilloch. I told him what JBW was doing at night. I decided that I needed to run away. I was fifteen years old at the time.
93. I tried to kill myself a few times. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I would also self-harm [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. This was to take me away from all that was going on.

Leaving foster care - the JBV/JBW [REDACTED]

94. I decided to try and contact some of my real family. One day after school, I went to my aunty's house, who I had found on social media. I had been stealing money from

JBW and JBV for a few weeks to run away. That paid my taxi fare to go to my aunty's house.

95. Once I got there, I asked to speak to my mum so my aunty phoned my mum. I broke down on the phone and told her that JBW had been sexually abusing me. My mum had been drinking but she told me to get a taxi to her house right away, so I did.
96. I couldn't find her flat in the scheme when I got there. My mum found me and took me up to her flat with her partner and the dog. She had some coffee to sober up and took me to my brother, [REDACTED]'s house. It was a surprise for him. We ordered food and then I was sent into a room to play with my niece while my mum spoke to [REDACTED] and his girlfriend, [REDACTED]
97. [REDACTED] took me to the police station at Possilpark. They said we needed to go to Drumchapel where I had been reported missing, so they took me there. The police questioned me about what had been happening. I told them everything. I was there from midnight until about 3am. I wasn't medically examined because the police didn't think there was any point.
98. [REDACTED] sat in the police interview with me because I didn't want my mum to hear it all. They took [REDACTED] out of the house that night and brought him to the police station. Emergency social workers, who I didn't know, came in and were taking me and [REDACTED] somewhere to stay for the night. I asked to see my mum and they said no. At that point I broke down and was in tears. I was fine and calm the whole time up until then and had told the police what had happened.
99. [REDACTED] and I were bundled into the back of a car and taken to a children's unit near Finnieston that morning to get a few hours sleep. We were told we were being taken for the night. There was only one bedroom available and I said that [REDACTED] could take it and I would sleep on the couch. I couldn't stop crying. The social worker checked I was okay and then left us.

100. I was in a daze the next morning and in this random place with these random people. I didn't want to be there or go back there. The social workers came and took us back to the police station for more interviews and questions. I was made to re-tell what I had told them the night before, more or less. [REDACTED] was questioned that day too but he didn't know anything that had happened to me.
101. The social workers then came and took me to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]s, our new foster parents. I can't remember which social worker took us there. I roughly remember them explaining things to us. They tried to find somewhere else for us first, but I think [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are the ones who answered the phone.
102. I never saw [REDACTED] JBW and [REDACTED] JBV again. They tried to contact [REDACTED] a few times.
103. I was with the [REDACTED] JBV/JBW for ten years. The last five years were horrible. The memories of the first five years were nice. They would sometimes give us hugs and we would sometimes get praise. They looked after us to a certain extent, but I do think we were just their little robots. They tried to mould us into these perfect children. I think it became apparent in the last five years that they couldn't mould us.

Reporting of abuse at [REDACTED] JBV/JBW

104. I told [REDACTED] JBV about [REDACTED] JBW coming into my room a few times. I don't know if she ever spoke to him, but it never stopped happening.
105. I told my mum about [REDACTED] JBW sexually abusing me and my mum took me to the police. I gave a statement to the police twice about what [REDACTED] JBW had been doing to me. As far as I know, it went to the procurator fiscal. I was told somebody would be in contact but nobody ever was. I never got a letter from the police or social work.

Foster Care – [REDACTED]

106. I was fifteen years old when we were taken to our new foster parents, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I think an emergency social worker took us. It was dark when we pulled up to their house. We went in and were introduced to them. Then they brought down the other kids to meet us.
107. There were two other foster girls and a boy who also lived there. [REDACTED] was eleven, [REDACTED] was about eighteen, and [REDACTED] was about twelve years old. [REDACTED] had been there for about ten years.
108. It was strange because me and [REDACTED] were used to it just being us for so long. [REDACTED] asked us if we wanted food and ordered us a Chinese takeaway. I didn't eat much because I was nervous. I then went to my room and I had to share with the girls. The first night was okay. They were very welcoming.
109. It was a relief to be away from the [REDACTED] JBV/JBW and also to be far away from Glasgow, but a bit of a panic about the new situation.
110. The social workers came back two days later to see how we were. That was when they had a chat with me and I told them what had happened at the [REDACTED] JBV/JBW. They didn't know because it wasn't in my social work records.
111. I told [REDACTED] about what had happened before and [REDACTED] JBW's abuse. This was in the first week and I told her in front of [REDACTED] so he could understand too. [REDACTED] believed me when I told her about [REDACTED] JBW and she has always been there by my side. I felt like I wasn't believed by others because nothing was done about it.
112. Things were good at [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]'s. It was different because there were five of us in a three bedroom house. There was a bunk-bed and a single bed in the girls' room. I slept on the single bed. Sharing things with other people was hard for me at first.

113. I clicked with [REDACTED] straight away because she liked dancing too and we would go dancing together. I struggled with [REDACTED]
114. It was good there and I have stayed there. I now have my own room. [REDACTED] was moved because he kept running out. [REDACTED] moved out when she was 21 years old, but she just moved up the road. Me and [REDACTED] didn't get on because she was stealing and was acting strange. [REDACTED] sat us down to talk about things.

Personal possessions

115. A suitcase of our clothes had come to the police station, and we opened it at [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]s. All of my stuff was clothes from the holiday in Benidorm, so it was summery clothes. I had arrived in my school uniform so we had to go shopping to go and get new clothes.
116. [REDACTED] JBW and [REDACTED] JBV were supposed to send our personal things on, but they missed a lot of things out. They later sent more of my clothes and things that I could wear. They forwarded on my dancing trophies, but I never got some other things, like pictures.

Schooling

117. I was in fourth year and me and [REDACTED] were still going to the same school. A driver would drive us there and back. My social worker, Linda, would come and see me at school. She also had a chat with school to keep them informed on my home life.
118. I wanted to move school to get a fresh start, but it was better to wait until I finished my exams and fourth year. After fourth year, I moved to Garnock Academy in Ayrshire. It was hard to settle into a new school at that age. I did my intermediate ones and twos when I was there.

119. [REDACTED] would give us pocket money but that stopped when I started getting a £60 bursary every fortnight from school. [REDACTED] would try to help us budget, and she would still give me money if I asked for it, if I told her what it was for.

Social Work

120. Social work had put me in touch with their family and children counsellor. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] would take me to my appointments in Glasgow. The woman I was seeing said I couldn't talk about anything that had happened to me for legal reasons because it was with the police. I went a couple of times and we discussed things from my early stages of life. I didn't find it useful so I didn't go back after about four sessions.
121. I didn't have much contact with social work after the first couple months I moved in. They didn't really check up on me.
122. Linda got early retirement within the first year I was at [REDACTED]s. My mum told me and I told [REDACTED]. It should have been the other way around. [REDACTED] should have told me and I should have told my mum. Linda should have spoken to me before she left.
123. I got another social worker called Alex Bruce eventually but it took a while. He told me he was only going to be there for a short while. When I finished with him, I met a woman in the house, and she told me that she wouldn't be my social worker. She gave me a date and time to meet the woman who was going to be my social worker. I was to meet her under the clock at central station. I waited for an hour and nobody turned up.
124. Social workers would meet me one to one when they came but because they didn't come often and it was always someone different, I didn't build a relationship with them. They would just be asking questions to tick boxes on their forms.
125. I never heard from the social work department for a while after that. [REDACTED] arranged for a child's right officer to talk to us. Me and [REDACTED] were then appointed a social

worker called Andrew. He has been my social worker for a few years but I haven't seen him in well over a year.

126. Nobody really checked up on me after I moved to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]s. [REDACTED] pointed out that I was placed with them because of what happened to me in previous foster care, yet nobody checked up on me. Nobody built a relationship with me. They could have killed me and buried me in the garden and social work would not know.
127. There was an incident between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] after two years. I don't know what happened but social workers came round. [REDACTED] said she wouldn't let them move [REDACTED] but they moved him that day. He was fourteen years old.
128. I couldn't process that he was being taken away straight away after we had been together all our lives. [REDACTED] was the only one that had checked that I was okay. It was difficult too because she had built a bond with him. She had helped discovered that he didn't have ADHD.
129. [REDACTED] was moved and put in a children's unit in Glasgow, which was ten minutes from where we used to live with the [REDACTED] JBV/JBW. He stayed there for a year or two. He was left there. I was able to see him a few times if I contacted him to arrange it. He had a lot of freedom to do what he wanted there. He would sometimes run away and come back to [REDACTED]s. She would call and send him back.
130. [REDACTED] was always open about contact with our families. There was no social work help to make arrangements with my family, but I could do it myself because [REDACTED] was okay with it. My mum had met [REDACTED] at meetings, and liked and trusted her. My family didn't come to the house.
131. I had told Andrew that I wasn't getting on with [REDACTED]. I was angry with [REDACTED] and I had said in anger that I wanted to leave if [REDACTED] didn't leave. That was put in my social work notes.

132. [REDACTED]'s social worker and Andrew sat down to talk about things. [REDACTED]'s social worker then made a comment to [REDACTED] saying that things couldn't be that great in the house if even I had said that I wanted to leave. I had said that to my social worker in anger. [REDACTED]'s social worker had read that from my file and told [REDACTED] She had no right to do that.
133. I am the only one left at [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]'s now. Social work wouldn't let her foster again. They said it was because she had a snib on the outside of her living room door. I don't understand why that would be a problem. We could still have gone into the living room if we wanted to. She took it off a couple of weeks after they told her it was an issue.
134. Things are really relaxed with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I feel like I am just part of a family there. I get cuddles when it's my birthday, or to say thanks and well done for anything. It has been a supportive experience that has made me a stronger person. I think everyone needs more foster carers with them.

Life after being in care

135. I am 23 years old now but I am still sort of in the care system. The social work arrangement is supposed to change when you turn eighteen. A woman from social work came to the house to see [REDACTED] last week, and she said that I should have changed to an arrangement called "continuing care" when I turned eighteen. This would mean that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] become supported carers and get less money. This never happened. They have a new worker now that has got the ball rolling to change the arrangement.
136. I have heard from others that when the arrangement changes from foster carer to supported carer, they get set times to do their own washing. It becomes more like living in a hostel. I was worried about that because I didn't want things to change from being a family environment. [REDACTED] has said that it wouldn't change things with

us, but it is a shame for other children if that happens. They must just feel like they are lodging in someone else's house.

137. One of my older brothers passed away about ten or eleven years ago.
138. I am currently a student and I am studying for a BA Honours in education and social services. I am in my Honours year and I plan do a Masters when I finish. I ultimately want to work as a children's advocate for Who Cares? Scotland.

Other action taken

139. I had reported ^{JBW} [REDACTED] to the police when I was fifteen and I never heard anything back for three years. I got legal help in 2012 and 2013, when I was about eighteen years old. I kept getting passed to different lawyers, but they would say they couldn't help because there wasn't enough evidence.
140. I found out later that the procurator fiscal had decided not to go ahead with it because there was no evidence. Nobody had told me.
141. A social worker told [REDACTED] to go to a different lawyer called Livingston Brown for a civil action. I am suing the ^{JBV/JBW} [REDACTED] for taking me for a termination when they had no right to, and the social work for neglect because not a single soul has been there.
142. I have been with Livingston Brown for two years now. It has been a long and painful process. We are at the closing stages with that. It has been a problem getting legal aid. Legal Aid wanted statements from my mum and brother, and a psychologist's report before they gave me legal aid. I have had to re-submit another form and we are waiting for that to be sorted.
143. Glasgow City Council are trying to say that the foster carers are not employed by them so they are not at fault. I have seen what ^{JBW} [REDACTED] and ^{JBV} [REDACTED] have said in their report to their solicitor. They have said that my court action is a malicious act

because I was in care, and that I know they have money and will have to pay for the court action.

Impact

144. I used to have nightmares of bumping into the [JBV/JBW] and them coming into my work. The thing I relive the most is flashbacks of the abuse that happened.
145. I have low self-esteem due to the emotional abuse. I don't feel worthy. I think this is from [JBW] telling me I was stupid because I wasn't good at maths, and [JBV] saying I would turn out like my mum.
146. I don't wear make-up most of the time now, and just put my hair up in a bun. I think that's because I was forced into dressing up so much, and made to wear make-up when I was in foster care with the [JBV/JBW]
147. I used to be really really skinny and I started putting on weight a couple of years ago. I struggled with that, and felt like I needed to lose weight. Sometimes I feel fine and some days I feel like I need to make more of an effort with myself and lose weight.
148. I had a breakdown a couple of months ago. I was having an argument with my partner and I was sick. He got annoyed and I just blanked out. I didn't speak; I just sat quietly and scratched my hands. [REDACTED] I remember doing it but I didn't have any feeling while doing it. I have two scars now. That was the first time in years I self-harmed.
149. I didn't know that what I used to do when I lived at the [JBV/JBW] was self-harm. It was never talked about then. I was at an event called "Who Cares?" recently and that's when I realised that I had poor mental health at age thirteen and fourteen, and was self-harming. It still affects me with flashbacks and the pain.

150. I didn't know much about the situation of being fostered until I got my records. It was only then that I was able to own that care identity. We were made to call **JBW** and **JBV** "Mum" and "Dad". My real mum didn't like that because she was our mum.

Records

151. My lawyer has seven files on me, which he has managed to get from social work.
152. I only remember being in three different placements, but my records show that I have been in six. I know from my records that I was placed in a school for children in Stirling when I was five years old. I have no memory of that so I don't know if it is true. I would have to see records of the time periods to know if that was true.

Other information

153. Social workers need to have more regular contact and check up on families. They need to have a better relationship with children, so children can say if something isn't right. They should meet children where the child feels more comfortable. It should feel more like a fun day out, rather than a meeting. This would help children to express themselves.
154. When a child does come forward to say something isn't right, there needs to be support afterwards. The child should not just be forgotten about and left to deal with it all alone. I think more training for social workers and smaller caseloads would help them to do a better job.
155. 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.

FDZ

Signed

Dated 23/2/18