

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

JDM

Support person present: No

1. My name is JDM. My date of birth is 1941. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

EXPERIENCES AS A FOSTER CARER

Background

2. I was born in Bellshill Maternity Hospital and my parents were from Larkhall. I am a retired engineer. I married my wife, JDM in 1973 and we had a daughter, in 1974. My wife stopped working shortly after we got married to have a family. She was a volunteer on the Children's Panel for thirty years.

Becoming a Foster Carer

3. Becoming a foster parent is something you chose to do. Following s birth my wife had a hysterectomy. We wanted to expand our family and offer our home to a child in need through fostering. My wife responded to an appeal for foster parents in the local newspaper. I don't remember the details of the advert. As I understand it the homes were full of children at this time and the policy was not to have children in care homes.
4. We applied on the basis that we wished to foster one child and if we were able to integrate a child into our family we would adopt. We included our daughter in the decision making as best we could. was around six years old at this time and

was spoken to by social work. They assessed what her attitude would be to having a new child in the family home. How much weight was given to this I am not sure.

5. We went through the full social work vetting process to determine the suitability of our family and our home. We were also given assurances that any prospective placement would take into account the welfare of our daughter. We were told we would be given expert guidance to ensure the stability of our family. We were not specific as to the age or sex of the child that was placed with us. We were happy to accept any child that could be integrated into our family. It wasn't a matter of choice for us, we were just trying to find the right child that could be happy in our home.

Training

6. We did not need any qualifications to foster a child. We were not given any specific training from what I can remember. We were interviewed to find out how we were as parents and assess our attitude to parenting. They were looking for people who were likely to be good, responsible parents. We attended meetings with other prospective foster parents so that may have been training. There were also aunties and grannies of children who they felt could not be kept with their natural parents at these meetings. I believe this was to make sure we knew what we were taking on. The meetings were held in council offices.
7. We were totally and fully assessed and whatever needed to be checked was checked. They asked what external family support we had. It took months if not a year. I do not know exactly what went on behind the scenes, but I felt like we were properly vetted. If you were in any way questionable you would not have been approved. We just accepted the local authority social work departments experience and knowledge.
8. We were older parents for our time and we already had a child. **JDK** was also already volunteering for the children's panel. I remember we were asked about our marriage and our attitude to discipline. We advised that **██████████** had never been physically disciplined and I was never hit as a child. We knew that it would not be a walkover and my wife and I talked it all through.

9. I believed that these assessments were conducted by professional people who understood what the parameters were for placing a child in foster care. I understood that they had a duty of care to the foster child.
10. We did not have any child protection training or training on how to manage a child who had suffered trauma. I don't think that was at the forefront of the public mind at this time. Corporal punishment was still legal. We were not given any training on discipline. Another child in our family would be subject to the same rules as [REDACTED] and any concerns would have been reported to the social work.

Foster Care Arrangements

11. FET [REDACTED] was the first and only child introduced to us. At this time FET [REDACTED] was in the care of the local authority and had a female social worker. It was thought that he responded better to male figures and he was then given a male social worker called Sam Gray. He was not a fully qualified social worker and was in the process of gaining his qualification. He was our main contact throughout the placement. We did not have our own social worker separate from FET [REDACTED]
12. I think [REDACTED] was seven when FET [REDACTED] eventually joined us. He was nine years old. I think there was two and a half years between them.
13. Our understanding was that we were parents to the extent that we had to look after FET [REDACTED] and bring him up. I don't think we had a legal right to authorise operations for example. I understood that we were once removed from being legal guardians. We were not employed by the local council. The social work had all the legal rights.
14. We were not aware of any possibility to provide respite or emergency accommodation as foster parents. Our intention was always to foster with a view to adoption. There was short term fostering, but that was something completely different to what we wanted to do.

15. We were not involved in any children's panels for FET. The understanding we had at the time, was that there were children who were in care homes and would benefit from a family life.

Financial Support

16. I do not think the financial support was generous for fostering. We were given a weekly allowance. You could not rely on this as a source of revenue and it provided mainly for things like food and clothing. It was not a wage. It did not take into account overheads like your mortgage and energy bills. I was working a lot over this time to cover other living expenses. We did not enter into fostering for the income. I understand now that fostering can be a business, but this was not the case for us. We wanted to offer a child a home and a better chance at life and we had the means to do so.
17. I do not recall how much the allowance was exactly. I do know there was not enough for expensive presents and holidays. I think we were given a bed for FET to begin with. Other than that we were never offered and we never asked for any further additional financial support.

Foster Home

18. Our house was an upper villa. We had three bedrooms and two public rooms. The main public room had a television and was in general use by all. The second public room was used for visitors. Social workers had full access to every part of the house when they visited.

Placement Preparation

19. We visited FET a number of times at Blairvadach Children's Home. He had several visits to our family home too. The final placement was approved in accordance with social work guidelines and as far as we were aware FET also would have been consulted beforehand. We were told that he would not be having any contact with his

natural family, but we were aware he had older brothers. We were not told any of the circumstances only that his family did not want contact. We were told he was convinced he had been to Disney World with his family, when he hadn't.

20. We did not get to see any of FET's social work records at any stage of the placement.

Daily Routine and Sleeping Arrangements

21. FET had a large bedroom to himself. Our daughter had a smaller box room and we had the third bedroom. I do not recall posters being an issue and it is not true that FET only had a bed in his room. FET was not backwards in coming forwards so if he wanted something in his room he would have said. He was not shy at talking to people.
22. My wife would manage the daily routine, as I was often working late through the week and occasionally away overnight.
23. was probably a bit young at this stage for chores. I don't think my wife would have wanted to give FET chores either. FET was not a cheerful helper. I think we just found it easier to do it ourselves. Perhaps if we had been more organised we would have had the children helping out more.

Pocket Money

24. The children would have been given pocket money appropriate to their age. I can't say for certain, but I think FET would have been given slightly more than They would not have been impoverished or disadvantaged. I believed in children learning financial responsibility, so whatever they got they would have had to make it last. I taught them how to budget.

Washing and Bathing

25. FET was old enough to deal with his own bathing and I am sure my wife would have made sure the children were washing regularly and cleaning the right places.

Clothes and Shoes

26. Clothes were bought new and we did not rely on hand me downs.

Mealtimes

27. We would all eat together as a family and be given the same meals. I did not approve of fads. I don't recall any particular food being an issue. FET was encouraged to eat small portions of anything he didn't like in accordance with good parenting practice. Anything left on the plate was appreciated by the dog.

Leisure Time

28. FET attended the boys' brigade and my daughter attended the brownies. I know my daughter was not too keen on the brownies and I don't think FET was a willing participant in the boys' brigade either.
29. We would visit my parents at weekends. My parents were not active grandparents as they lived quite far away. FET and [REDACTED] were the ages of my niece and nephew, so they would sometimes play with them at my sister in laws. My mother in law lived close and helped out with children.
30. FET also befriended some children from Glenrosa Children's Home [REDACTED] and would play with them a lot. He also made friends with another foster child who lived with the [REDACTED] nearby. He did not really have any time for my daughter.
31. We were told that the fact we had a dog in our home would have been advantageous for FET as he wanted a dog. He was never able to walk the dog as it was energetic

and he would not have been able to control it. It was the type of dog that wanted to jump on you and lick your face to say hello.

32. I perhaps could have done more with the children at the weekends, but I was working a lot and was not into sports. I do regret that. I probably didn't do enough. [REDACTED] wasn't a wanderer, but [FET] maybe was more so.

Trips and Holidays

33. We had a caravan in North Berwick at the Berwick Holiday Centre and we went there for a holiday when [FET] was with us. [FET] was caught stealing money from me for the slot machines and we had the chief security officer give him a dressing down in his best authoritarian voice. It was quite a lot of money. He gave him a very stern talking to and [FET] listened. [FET] always listened. He could sometimes be moody, but he was never defiant. He bent with the wind. There were no signs of serious bad behaviour from what I could see at that time.
34. Another holiday was with an aunt and uncle in Nottingham.

Schooling

35. [FET] went to the local primary school, Glendale with my daughter and they would walk. It was half a mile away. I was at work and my wife could not manage the walk because of her disability. She did not drive. My wife got on well with the staff at the Glenrosa children's home, so she would take my daughter and later [FET] to walk to school with them. I don't think we would have let [FET] walk to school on his own at nine years old.
36. Our children's school attendance was exemplary and their school records will confirm this. Truancy was not an issue. We attended for parents' evenings and were told everything was fine and both were doing well. I personally thought they should have been pushed a bit more. I don't think the expectations were high at the school.

37. FET did not communicate well with me about school work. It was a modern, progressive school and they believed that the children would come on at their own pace. My daughter was in the lower group in her class because of her age and FET may have been the same because of his circumstances. I think he was behind with his reading skills for his age. I don't think he had had the benefit of a home life and encouragement at school from the right age.
38. Personally I thought the school was a bit too modern, but they were apparently at the forefront of educational thinking at the time. I don't recall the children ever getting any home work. I don't think it was part of the school ethos. If they had been given homework it would have been gone over and sent back word perfect. My wife would have done that. I felt like the school didn't want the parents to interfere.

Healthcare

39. I remember at least one occasion when we attended the doctors with FET as he had some lumps on his groin. I don't know how we noticed them. He was carefully examined by the family doctor. We were told it was fleas and to take him home and strip him in the bath, then wash him and his clothes. No one else in the family was affected.
40. I believe there must have been other visits to the doctor but I cannot recall them. FET was a reasonably healthy boy and did not need to attend hospital or anything like that. He got them same health care as the rest of the family and nothing extra from social work that I can remember.
41. I do not remember FET ever having to attend the dentist. If he did not get dental care it was because he did not need it. I think that must have been done at the school back then. I don't remember going to the dentist either. No one likes going to the dentist.

Christmas and Birthdays

42. I was not a big Christmas person. It was an awful nuisance for me at work. The children did receive Christmas presents from us and friends and relatives. As FET was older he would often get better presents, appropriate to age. My daughter's birthday is [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] There was no question of [REDACTED] getting better than FET. He got the same as if he had been with us from birth.
43. One Christmas both children got a second hand bike. FET got a bigger and better bike and it was not a cheap present for us. He wanted a brand new BMX bike and therefore never used the second hand one.
44. I do not recall any of FET's birthdays when he stayed with us. Again I am not big on celebrating birthdays and have been known to let my own birthday pass without noticing. JDK would have dealt with all of that and made sure the children got presents. I don't recall any birthday teas or anything like that. Probably there should have been and there wasn't. It wasn't deliberate or nasty it was just the way things were. With [REDACTED]'s birthday being so close to Christmas she never had a party either.

Discipline

45. Apart from the time FET stole money from me and we had the security officer speak with him, I do not recall having to discipline FET. He was not a tearaway and I certainly do not recall him ever shoplifting as he mentions in his statement. My wife was in and out of the local shop and was a very sociable person. She knew everyone. I think we would have known if he was shoplifting. It is very unlikely he could have brought anything into our house that we did not know about. I am almost certain when he was with us he was a law abiding child.

46. FET did not openly defy me and he did not openly defy my wife in front of me. Discipline in our house was by encouragement and verbal admonition. I think if we had to ground him or deny him his pocket money we would have discussed it with the social work first, but I don't think we ever had to.

Relationship with Foster Child

47. I recall that FET's placement was difficult the first few weeks but the reality is he never settled in. FET would respond reasonably well to me when I was there and begrudgingly to my wife when I was not. I think because he responded better to males he wanted to separate me from the family and did not take to my wife and my daughter at all.
48. I am not sure what it was that FET did not like about my wife and daughter. I think subconsciously FET could not accept my wife's disability. He was not friendly to my wife at all. I believe that his perception that our daughter was different from other children influenced his behaviour towards her. He mainly ignored her. is not a high flyer, but she is very conscientious. She has worked full time ever since leaving school and has an Open University degree and works for the council.

Contact with Family (other than siblings)

49. FET would have regular contact with my parents who we visited at weekends. My wife also relied on her mother and sister in law for support. My sister in law lived locally and there was only one busy road they had to cross to get there. My mother in law and sister in law helped with the children when JDK had hospital appointments. The children got on well with their cousins. I believe FET kept in touch with my nephew through social media.

Siblings

50. FET did not take to my daughter and had no time for her.

Visitors

51. We received regular visits from the social work. Sam Gray would visit every second month or so and we would express our concerns regarding FET settling in to the family. I would stress that he was not getting on with my wife and daughter. We were told this was to be expected and it would all work out alright in the end.

Review of Care/placement

52. We were certainly aware that we had to disclose anything that needed to be disclosed. I don't recall specific reviews, but I remember one meeting I was refused the time off by my work. I think that may have been a review that I had called for later on as FET was still not settling in to the family and my wife was not coping. There must have been a final review when FET was finally taken away.

Records

53. I did not keep any records relating to FET's placement with us. We did not have a diary or anything like that. As far as we understood it the social work recorded everything and we were completely transparent with them. The records that we have will be the records that the social work have.

Ending the placement

54. FET's placement ended when my mother in law died and the social work department realised the stress fostering was putting on our family. FET had still not settled in. Around the same time I was made redundant. I don't know if that was because of all the stress I was having at home, but I guess it could have been. My job required me to be very sharp and I was dealing with a lot. Employers were not sensitive to family needs back then.
55. FET was removed immediately. As far as I was aware FET was sent to the across the road from us, who were also foster parents. I was pleased when

I learnt he was going there as I knew he would be looked after. They were very appropriate people by reputation. I was sad it had not worked out, as I had really invested a lot in making it work. We were trying to be model parents.

56. I now think I put too much pressure on my wife and did not fully appreciate just how much FET had taken against her and my daughter. I should have said at an earlier stage that it was not working. I felt like I had failed my family. It left a mark on our lives. For fifteen years after FET left we lived below the poverty line. Financially it took us a long time to recover.
57. The placement nearly ended my marriage and my daughter had to be placed in therapy for months afterwards. The local authority helped with that. It would never have occurred to us that we wanted to complain about FET's placement. We got over it and put our own lives back together.

Complaints

58. I was not aware of any complaints from FET when he stayed with us. If he did have complaints when he was with us, he was regularly at the children's home [REDACTED]. He was also friends with another child in foster care who was looked after by the [REDACTED]. Mrs [REDACTED] had been fostering for a long time and was very active in the community. Her husband, [REDACTED] was a Church of Scotland minister. If they thought anything untoward had been happening I have no doubt they would have acted. The [REDACTED] were public spirited and very socially active.
59. FET also had time on his own with his social worker Sam Gray.
60. FET was also in regular contact with his cousins and my sister in law. So much so that I remember my sister in law telling me that FET had told her my wife did not take baths. My wife could not take a bath on her own because of her disability and I had to help her. This was a private family matter.

61. One friend of ours FET also had contact with, was a church elder and boys brigade leader. He had wide experience of youth work. He would never had turned a blind eye to something like this.
62. FET could have also spoken to someone at the school. They would have been open and aware.

Convictions

63. I have no previous convictions for violence of any type, particularly against children and I can say the same for my wife, who is no longer here to speak for herself. My wife worked on the children's panel and the school board and had to go through disclosure Scotland.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later



64.

Reporting of placement concerns

65. I did report to Sam Gray multiple times that FET was not adapting well to family life. Latterly when the tensions between my wife and FET were becoming worse we regularly reported concerns and requested meetings.

66. I would usually run Sam to the subway after his visits and we would discuss my concerns. I emphasised that FET was giving my wife a hard time and we were finding it difficult to cope. Sam Gray never left our meetings with a rosy picture of how the placement was going. He was left with the impression that FET was never in the way of any harm, but things were not going well. I fully expected this to be passed on and recorded. I was determined to make the placement work and I was reassured that it was all normal. If there had been any concerns or suspicions at all, I would have imagined JDK would not have been able to continue on the children's panel.
67. No one that we spoke with from social work was in anyway unpleasant or nasty. No one had the appearance of being blasé or incompetent, but at the same time, in retrospect I think there were a number of things that shouldn't have happened. We were not told that FET had a failed placement the year before and had not settled in. We were assured that the placement would not endanger the family and everything was going to be alright.
68. I thought that everything I said to our social worker would be reported back. I think that what he was told should have produced warning bells at an early stage. These warnings were not addressed. FET was not integrating with the family and that was communicated to Sam Gray many times outside of FET's presence. I don't think I could have made my concerns and worries any clearer and nothing appeared to be done about it.
69. FET could present himself well in the public and was not intimidated or frightened.
70. I think the priority of the social work at that time was not to establish a proper family unit, it was to get the children's homes emptied. They did not have the experience to realise that they were not doing the right thing. Social workers should have the capacity to know when something is not right. I don't know how you train that. You cannot give a list of things that could go wrong. Can you imagine someone explaining how you are going to bring up your family?

71. I think the social worker should have been able to understand FET's needs a bit better. I am not a psychologist, but I think FET was misplaced with a mother who was disabled and a younger sister. FET was presented to us as someone who would respond to the type of home we had to offer and a match with our intentions. Our intention was to do everything by the book. We were not experienced foster parents. We had a home and we wanted to develop a family. We had hopes of doing something good.
72. I do not have a bad word to say against the social worker that came to visit us, Sam Gray. I am sure he had good intentions, but I now think that he was under qualified. In the present day he would not have been given the level of responsibility he had.
73. Different children have different needs. I think everything would have been fine if we had been placed with a child that could respond to the family life we had to offer. In hindsight I think FET would have been better placed with an older brother. The selection of our home was not appropriate for FET

Allegations of Abuse

Awareness of Abuse

74. I can confirm that the allegations of ill treatment and abuse of FET whilst in our care are false and completely without foundation. This has been a total shock to me. I believe FET to be motivated by childhood fantasy, malice or the prospect of financial gain in making these claims. If that was his position at the time it was very well hidden. FET was not a timid boy and was a good communicator. Our position can be fully verified by FET's social work, medical and school records.
75. This is a serious matter and it is not enough to simply say that there could be some substance in his claims. I believe the balance of proof here is too low. There is an evident injustice in that an innocent person is put through the stress and inconvenience

of defending his reputation and possibly livelihood, at the whim of an irresponsible person with a grudge or imagined grievance.

76. Evidence has been lost in the passage of time. The motivations of FET must be taken into account. The physical abuse he claims could not have been hidden from public view. I am confident that there can be no actual evidence of wrongdoing by my wife or myself. I take comfort in the fact that the police have not acted on his claims.
77. FET was in an open and transparent environment with regular visits from social work. They knew he was having difficulties with adjusting and would have been on the lookout for anything else of concern. Daily beatings would have shown up. Especially to the face.
78. FET was never far away from responsible people who would have seen and reported physical abuse. FET mentions in his statement that he attended a doctor at the end of his placement with us. That was another opportunity to discover if anything untoward had happened.
79. If a fraction of what has been alleged is true, I ought to spend the rest of my days in prison. If my wife was alive today I would have had the most expensive legal advice I could get. I would not have put her through this in her last years.

Specific Allegations Against you that have been made to the Inquiry

80. I have examined the Inquiry statement provided to me dated 13th April 2018 when FET was in the care of the local authority social work department and under a section 16 order.
81. FET has said in his statement, *Mrs JDK was brutal. Mr JDM wasn't as bad as Mrs JDK but he did give me a good few kickings'...* JDK/JDM *would either just ask me to "get the fuck out" (after school) or they'd physically launch me out the door...' 'Quite quickly after I was fostered they started leathering me. The kickings probably started only a week and a half after I was fostered by JDK/JDM It was as quick as that. I was*

physically beaten on a daily basis by Mrs JKD ... Mr JDM did that as well but not like her ... she hit me with a dog lead ... she would grab me and punch me ... she would 'clump' me with her hand ... she launched me down the steps many a time.'

82. My wife had a physical disability and could not even kick a football without falling over. Her right arm and leg were withered and not much use. It would have been impossible for her to perform the acts of abuse that have been claimed against her. In addition the layout of the stairs in our home would not have permitted it, even for an able bodied person. Everything in my defence is circumstantial. I have got to rely on your common sense. Could you fall down the stairs and not be hurt and need medical attention?

83. FET also says, 'Mrs JKD would threaten to call Mr JDM and get him to come and get me. He did get me a few times. I remember one time that Mr JDM lifted me above his head. He threw me into my room. He was trying to get me onto my bed but he threw me too hard. I remember bouncing off the wall before landing on my bed'.

84. This is completely false.

85. FET said, ' would do things wrong and blame me. She would lie. I would get a kicking from JKD/JDM for things that she had done. I would have to take the wrap for things that she had done. There was never any question of her not being believed by her parents.'

86. Both our children were treated equally at all times. FET had no time for my daughter and ignored her.

87. FET also says in his statement, 'One day JKD/JDM were making a coffee. I asked whether I could have one. At that time I didn't even really know what a coffee was. They gave me a hot coffee. I tasted it. I didn't like it and said that I didn't want it, Mrs JKD gave me a hiding for that. After she gave me the hiding she dragged me into the kitchen and forced me to drink the cold coffee'.

88. The only memory that sticks in my head with FET and hot drinks is relating to having sugar in his tea. FET would take too many sugars in his tea and I also liked a lot of sugar in my tea. On one occasion FET put two spoonful's of sugar in his cup when he thought we were not looking. Then he asked for two more and I pointed out to him that he already had two. He then said in that case I don't want any sugar, I'll have no sugar at all. From then on we stopped having sugar on the table, which is a good thing as I am diabetic.
89. FET says in relation to clothing, 'JDK/JDM dressed me like a tramp. I looked like an absolute "tink". It was all hand me downs, They put me in clothes that were too small for me. I stood out at school because of the way I looked'
90. I acknowledge that I did not buy overpriced branded goods. I was never influenced by advertising. Our daughter accepted this. Perhaps FET did not. The children's clothes were bought new.
91. FET says in relation to food, 'The food was rank ... if I left anything on my plate my face was pushed into it by Mrs JDK.'
92. FET's comments on food are not true. At no point was FET ever forced to eat his food.
93. FET said, 'I used to write notes. I would write things like "I want to leave and go back to a home." I'd hide the notes in my room. JDK/JDM would find the notes and it would be like "round two." I'd get a kicking again. They did that to make sure I didn't say another word.'
94. I have no knowledge of FET writing any letters or a letter to his dad at the end of his placement with us. I don't remember what FET's writing ability was like at that age. Any letters of that nature would have been taken straight to the social work department.

95. FET mentioned that, *'I would have a lot of bruising. I would have bruised ribs and things like that. I would be kept off school until the bruising was gone.'*
96. Both our children had exemplary school attendance and the school records will show this. I would like to request you obtain his school records as evidence. There was also ample opportunity for bruising to be picked up at medical examinations.
97. FET also says, *'It was constant with them. It was probably every day I got a clout or a kicking. My time with JDK/JDM was absolutely brutal. It was horrific. These people knocked the shit out of me for two years.'*
98. FET was brought up in an environment where any abuse would certainly have been noticed. Someone would have picked up on it. FET was surrounded by people who would have seen if anything was wrong.
99. FET also referred to bad language being used to him on frequent occasions. My background did not permit this, especially in front of the children.

Reporting to Police/Criminal Proceedings

100. There was never any reason to have any criminal investigations during FET's time with us. The social work were kept informed of everything that was happening.

Prior Statements

101. I have never given a statement to any other person of authority regarding FET's placement with us.

Contact after the placement

102. FET called me on the telephone several months after he had left to ask if he could have a portable television that he remembered was in our house. He also contacted

me a second time by telephone to request a small sum of money to help with something he wanted to buy. I did not comply with either request.

103. FET later called when he was an adult to say he was in the army and that he was getting on well. He said his ambition was to join the armed police when his army service ended. I did not think that would happen.
104. Some years later my wife and I were driving through Shawlands, near our home and we saw FET driving a nice car. He flashed us down. We had a short chat and he told us he had left the army and was on track to becoming a millionaire.
105. FET mentions in his statement that he saw me at Asda supermarket some years back and confronted me about the allegations of abuse from us. That did not happen. If did happen I can assure you I would have remembered it and I would have gone straight to social work.

Helping the Inquiry

106. I am happy to help the Inquiry in any way that I can and I am fully supportive of the need for an Inquiry. I have nothing to hide. What has been accused is totally out of character and it upsets me that my late wife is not here to answer for herself. It upsets me that people who do not know her will hear about this and judge her. Mud sticks.
107. The distress of such allegations on a person must be taken into account. I am ok, but had this come out in my wife's final years it would have been devastating. I can only relying on the accuracy of any records that remain and I am not allowed to see them. I feel like I need to get my defence fool proof and I don't know if I can do that after forty years. I cannot accept the situation with my wife who would be thought to be someone who could do this. I am also a trustee for a local charity and would be upset if this came out on social media and people who don't know me believed it to be true. I am lost as to what course of action I have.

Hopes for the future

108. There needs to be a quality assurance type procedure in the fostering and social work so that every action that is carried out cannot be capable of misinterpretation. There should no longer be for example a teacher alone in a room with a vulnerable pupil. The guidance needs to be fool proof so there can be no questions. There should be regular medical and psychiatric examinations. There could be other reasons for acquisitions and these need to be considered.
109. In the Inquiry report I would like to see a statistical examination to show some distinction between the cases. I accept that some are absolutely genuine and others there is a degree of justification, but some cases are malicious or mercenary. I would like to see some sort of indication of this.

Other information

110. 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.....

JDM

Dated.....

22-02-2022,