

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**Witness Statement of**

FCN [REDACTED]

Support person present: Yes

1. My full name is FCN [REDACTED] but I'm known as FCN [REDACTED]. My contact details are known to the Inquiry. I live at home with my wife [REDACTED]. We have no children. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1956. I am 59 years old.

Parents and Siblings

2. I have a brother called [REDACTED] who was born [REDACTED] 1951 and a sister [REDACTED] known as [REDACTED] who was born [REDACTED] 1952. I also have a half-sister called [REDACTED] who was born [REDACTED] 1954 and a cousin called [REDACTED] who was born [REDACTED] 1960.

3. When I was first taken into care I was very young. I think I was taken into care at the same time as the members of my family that I have mentioned. We weren't in the same place though. I've not really got any recollection but they didn't follow my footsteps. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] as far as I know went into a different home and were there all of their childhood. I don't know which homes they went to.

4. I know that my mother [REDACTED] married [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] 1951. My birth certificate shows 'Father Unknown'. However I was given the name [REDACTED]. My wife [REDACTED] and I traced and met [REDACTED] in the last few years and he's still living in Girvan. He told us that he had worked in England a lot. He later told me that he wasn't my father, I phoned him at Christmas one year to wish him a Merry Christmas and he told me "I'm not your father" just like that. Why would anybody do that to another person? It was very cruel. I have had no further contact with him.

5. At some point my mother [REDACTED] went to live with a man called [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and I went with her as far as I know. My mother and [REDACTED] had a daughter together called [REDACTED] [REDACTED] ended up in care but I don't know where. She had learning difficulties. I know that [REDACTED] claims she was abused as well. [REDACTED] lives somewhere in Glasgow now. But we are not in contact.

6. At some stage when I was young, [REDACTED] collapsed and died and the children all moved down to [REDACTED] near Girvan, to be with my maternal grandmother. We were told this by a neighbour when we were looking into my background. A neighbour, who is still in [REDACTED] remembers me being in a pram around that time and also recalls that she knew that [REDACTED] was not my father. But I really don't know or recall anything about the early part of my life.

Admission into Care

7. I found out through looking at paperwork that I went to Burnside Home in Irvine. I thought that I went there when I was four but the records show that I was placed there on [REDACTED] 1962 which would make me nearly six. I was able to get, only half a page of records from the council in Ayr. I was told that the rest got lost in a fire. A social worker had to go through them with me before I could have them.

8. I don't know where I was from birth until I went into care. The only thing that I know about my admission to Burnside in the first place is what I have been told. Apparently a neighbour found four of us sitting on a step outside my grandmother's home and my grandmother wouldn't let us in. I think my mother had left us with my grandmother and moved on. A neighbour phoned Ayr County Council and we were taken into care. That's what I've been told anyway but I've no recollection.

Foster Care

Foster Family

9. I was taken into foster care by the FJA/FJB family on 1963. My surname was changed to FJA/FJB but when I was 15 I changed it back because I knew that my name was FCN I had a copy of my birth certificate and I used to carry it about with me.

10. I had found the copy of my birth certificate at the FJA/FJB home and that was the first time that I knew that my name was FCN. The FJA/FJB had changed my name without any legal process and I was very angry. It still depresses me today to read a document that says FCN on it. This is very significant for me. They had no right to change my name and it upsets me a lot.

11. I was baptised into the Catholic Church whilst in foster care with the FJA/FJB family on the 1964. Having been baptised allowed me to train as an altar boy. I don't actually know the faith of my natural parents. The FJA/FJB family lived at in This was a four bedroomed semi-detached house. My foster parents were called FJA/FJB.

12. The FJA/FJB had three children of their own. They were called and They were a bit older than me. was still at school and and were working. There was also another foster child in the FJA/FJB home called He was a couple of years younger than me. I heard later that had died of a drugs overdose in Birmingham. I think he was in his twenties when he died.

Contact with birth family during time in care and afterward

13. From the very beginning, I said to my foster parents, "I want my own mum and dad". I had no contact with my birth family during the time I was in foster care. I never saw my mother again. I don't maintain contact with and but I have seen them. They wanted to get on with their lives. My brother once told me that that my family had tried to get my sister and him back, but not me. I am not sure how much of that is correct though.

Schooling and Education

14. The schools I attended during my time in foster care were [REDACTED] the Catholic Primary School and St Andrews in Ardrossan was the Secondary School.

Physical and Psychological abuse by foster parents

15. When I was living with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] I suffered physical abuse by both of them at different times. This started after I had been with them for about a year. They also locked me in cupboards in darkness for periods of up to an hour. Another thing they did was to order me to go to my room and strip naked. I had to wait for [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] to come and tell me when I could put my clothes back on.

16. At bath time [REDACTED] used to hold my head under water. This was as a punishment for things like not going to school or not washing my hands on time. I saw this as a type of punishment you might give to the Kray twins as opposed to what should have been just a slap on the wrist.

17. Sunday night was bath night and I used to stay out playing football to try to avoid a bath because I knew that it would include [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] holding my head under water in the bath. I used to stay out playing until it was dark. I was okay with the dark then. Now I can't even sleep in a bedroom without the lights on. The bath thing happened on Sundays but it also happened on any other night when I was getting a bath. I remember fighting like hell to try to get back up, fighting for oxygen. It's a wonder [REDACTED] didn't do anything nasty to me, although that was nasty enough. My foster parents did this for a variety of reasons. Maybe I'd rubbed them up the wrong way or I hadn't washed the pots or something. I know now that I have a fear of water.

18. [REDACTED] also used to belt me with a trouser belt. This happened often. If she couldn't get the right swing on it she used to call for [REDACTED] and he would give me it.

I had a bricked up window in my bedroom so that I couldn't see out. I don't know why they didn't punish me by just taking my ball off me. At school you would get six of the belt, but when I was belted at home it was a lot more than that. I think I was that type of kid that got in the way and I seemed to be in the way all the time. That's the way I saw it. At school I was belted on the hands. At home I was belted on the back or on the bottom. When I was belted they sometimes hit me with the belt buckle.

19. When I was belted on the back or on the bottom it left marks and sometimes kids at school getting changed for P.E. classes would point the marks out to me. I would just say, "Don't worry about it", I was too busy, I just wanted to play football and move on to the next subject. This was at Primary School and High School. I never got any treatment or saw a doctor when I was in foster care. I never told anyone about these things. I was too ashamed because in those days I thought I would be the one to get the punishment again.

20. I had an art teacher at secondary school who I was very close to. I'm not very good at art but she used to get me splashing some paint on and getting the frustration out. She was the closest I've ever been to telling anyone the full story until I met [REDACTED] my wife, and spoke to psychiatrists. The only thing that stopped me from telling my art teacher about what was happening to me was the thought that the FJA/FJB [REDACTED] would blame me.

21. The times when I was locked in a cupboard would have been because of whenever FJB [REDACTED] was in a bad mood or he was on the drink or when he was gambling and he lost all the money. This happened regularly throughout the whole period I was in foster care. One of the reasons I got it was because I was pinching money out of FJB [REDACTED] pocket. I'm not proud of that but I shouldn't be locked in a cupboard in darkness for it. I would be left in the cupboard for a good hour. FJB [REDACTED] was a heavy drinker.

22. When I was stripped naked and made to lie waiting for FJB [REDACTED] or FJA [REDACTED] to let me get dressed again I would wait for a good hour like that. I didn't have a watch or anything. I could sometimes tell it had been a long time because there was a little gap in the brickwork and you could see it getting dark. Or sometimes I went in when

it was light and it was dark when I came out. There was no electric light in my room to switch on. It was dark and frightening. I've no idea why I had a room with the window bricked up. In the summer you could get a little bit of light coming through gaps in the brickwork.

23. FJA and FJB were both heavy drinkers. On more than one occasion I had to help FJA to carry FJB upstairs and put him to bed. This would have happened when FJB was very drunk.

Treatment of other children in the foster care home

24. [REDACTED] or the other children living in the FJA/FJB house were never treated the way I was.

Birthdays and Christmas

25. I was treated differently to [REDACTED] and the other children on these occasions by the FJA/FJB. I've had birthdays and Christmases with [REDACTED] and it makes me regret now that I didn't have them when I was a child. I'd see other kids getting stuff but I might get a ball and that would be it.

26. The FJA/FJB own children and [REDACTED] got more than me. My birthday was never celebrated. I get cards and presents now from [REDACTED] My cousins and their families give me cards now and give me presents at Christmas which is quite good.

27. Throughout all my years in foster care I kept saying that I wanted my real parents. That's quite hurtful to the FJA/FJB. I had those feelings in Burnside as well.

Sexual Abuse by Father MXF

28. Whilst living at the FJA/FJB home, [REDACTED] and I were sent to church at a different time to the FJA/FJB children. I still don't know why this was. I would have thought that the whole family would have gone together. It was in the church where things happened.

29. I used to go down on a Sunday with [REDACTED]. Father MXF would say, "It's Altar Boy practice this week". [REDACTED] would sometimes come and sometimes he would just wait outside. You had to be a minimum of seven years of age to become an altar boy and you have to have been baptised. I think that I started training to be an altar boy before I was seven.

30. Father MXF had a few lads there. I don't know why but I got singled out. He would send a couple of lads up to the altar; I was sat in the last row of seats before the altar. There was like a little wall but it is a wooden thing in front and Father MXF would just say "kneel down", so I knelt down. He would take my penis out and have a good play about with that. He would do what he wanted to do. To this day I don't know if he did anything to the other lads. There were other lads present when he was doing this but he was quite deceitful about it.

31. Father MXF did these things to me inside the church. He would hold my penis, masturbate it and suck it. He also masturbated me and himself. I don't how these other kids never saw it. This started before I became an altar boy. Father MXF used to come to the FJA/FJB house on a regular basis. He would have me sit on his knee. He would say, "What a good altar boy he's going to make" and all this. He didn't do anything to me at the FJA/FJB home. Nothing was going to happen with parents there and kids watching telly.

32. I've no idea if Father MXF did anything to other boys. Although [REDACTED] was often with me I never saw him in the same situations I was in. Father MXF did these things to me twice a week for about half an hour each time. I went back to the church in 2004 with [REDACTED] and there is still a couch in the vestry. I don't know if it is the same couch but it is in the same position. That's where he used to have his sexual intercourse with me, touching my penis and moving on to

intercourse with me. It was planned and took place on a couch in the vestry room. He used the couch like a bed.

33. Father ^{MXF} never said anything to me about what he did to me. He just moved his hands about. That was his words. He would just clean up and act as if nothing had happened. Then you'd see him the next week and he'd be standing on the altar. When Tuesday or Wednesday came round he'd be there to practice the altar boy service.

34. No one else was present in the vestry when he had intercourse with me. Incidentally, he used to give me little bits of money, sweets treats and crisps. He was always good for that. In order to get me in to the vestry he would just say, "Come through here a moment". After a while I probably knew what was going to happen. He must have known at the time he could do anything and get away with it. I think this went on for over four years until I was about eleven. I stopped going to church. I started skipping it. I'd had enough, I thought, 'this shouldn't be happening'. But what can you do about it? I'd go and play football.

35. I want to express how appalled I am to think that these terrible acts were done to me by a priest. He actually committed these acts inside a church, at the altar, by the bench, in the vestry and he did this every week.

36. There is something niggling in my mind, that I had to go to the doctor one time and it was through the sexual intercourse. I was bleeding at school. They either saw the blood on the seat or it had been dripping on to the floor or something. The school said it was their duty to take me to the doctor. I was at secondary school at the time, only just I think. If there is any medical record it might be under the name ^{FCN} ^{FJA/FJB} as that is what I was known as at school. But I am struggling to remember any more than that. It is a vague recollection.

37. I never told anyone about these things that Father ^{MXF} did to me at the time because I thought I would have been in the wrong. I couldn't understand it all. I never considered telling the ^{FJA/FJB}. I would really have got the belt then. Father ^{MXF} came to the house for his dinner. He was one of these people in the

community. He was a Catholic priest. [REDACTED]
This is how I remember him so well, [REDACTED] When I see [REDACTED] even now in church
I walk out.

38. Father [MXF] was very friendly with the [FJA/FJB] They were bringing up
five kids, in the sixties, it's a lot.

39. I have paperwork that states that Father [MXF] died on [REDACTED] 1976.

Social Worker visits to Foster Home

40. I ran away from the [FJA/FJB] home many times. I just didn't have any faith
in them. This was definitely because of what Father [MXF] was doing to me and
also because of what the [FJA/FJB] were doing to me. No one ever asked me why I
was running away. When I ran away, I would just sleep rough. Mr Barry, the social
worker, used to come and see me at the [FJA/FJB] house every week but I never
saw him on my own.

41. Mr Barry only ever spoke to me in the presence of the [FJA/FJB] Even if I
had seen him on my own I wouldn't have told. I didn't trust him. I didn't trust
anybody. I never told him anything about what had gone on. He never asked me if I
had any troubles or anything. If he had, I'd have said no. I have seen some of the
reports about me when I was in the care of the [FJA/FJB] and I see names of social
workers that I have never even seen. The only one I ever met or spoke to was Mr
Barry. As a child, I was never given any say in what happened to me or where I was
going. I was just told what was happening.

42. As I said, I nearly told my art teacher. I wish I had. If I'd had the gumption I
would have told. If I had, the cat would have been out the bag and it would have
helped and I would have had a better life. I was ready for telling someone. I'd only
just gone to the secondary school and I'd never had art before at the primary and I
thought, 'this is alright'.

Life after Foster Care

43. In the summer that I reached 15 years of age I left school and I moved out of the [FJA/FJB] home. I remember it faithfully; I finished school on the Friday and started my job on the Monday. I got a job in a bakery called [REDACTED]. When I left the [FJA/FJB] and started work, the abuse had gone to the back of my mind.

44. I spent a lot of time in my life in and out of secure accommodation. If I wasn't in prison, I'd be in a mental hospital, if I wasn't in a mental hospital, I'd be in prison. This carried on as a cycle until I met my wife [REDACTED] about 20 years ago. I was in a mental hospital at that time. I did have jobs on and off for a few months at a time. The longest I stayed in a job was one I had at the [REDACTED] newspaper. I had a job there looking after the machines. I stayed in that job for 18 months.

First Disclosure

45. The first person I ever told about the things that had happened to me was in a Psychiatric hospital in Manchester. This was to a woman nurse called Jackie Bullows. She was a psychiatric nurse and we were doing group therapy one day. The subject that we were talking about was abuse and it got an angry reaction from me. I stormed out. She came round to my room and she said, "Something's happened to you hasn't it?"

46. I was between thirty and forty years old when I told Jackie about this and it was the first time I had spoken to anybody about it.

Impact of Experiences

47. I found it hard to cope with life and I believe it was due to what had happened to me in foster care and with Father [MXF] I was getting in trouble with the police. I ended up in secure accommodation. I was drinking too much. This was from my teens onwards. I ended up going to a young offenders institution and adult prison. I'm not proud of it. I also had treatment for mental health issues.

48. What was done to me by Father **MXF** has caused me to have great problems trusting anyone in authority throughout my life. This includes medical people. I keep thinking that nobody is going to believe me. I think that people will think that I'm the one to blame.

49. One of the effects on me of my abuse is that I find it difficult to be around homosexual men. Also, if I have a medical examination, I have to be examined by lady doctors, I am uncomfortable otherwise.

50. I had seen other people before Jackie Bullows. At nineteen years of age I was in a clinic in Oxford for alcoholism. I used to drink to forget the past. At that time I was an alcoholic. I got treatment for it when I was quite young but I never mentioned what had happened to me in childhood. I never would have mentioned it. If I had, it would have made my life a lot better. I know that now. People did explore why I was drinking so much, but they just said, 'he's from a broken home'.

51. Over the years I have had a range of doctors, psychiatrists and psychologists. I was eventually diagnosed by a Dr Brown who is a forensic psychiatrist as having complex Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). This resulted in having therapy and sessions with Dr Gordon who is a clinical psychologist. It has been so difficult getting access to the right sort of care. If I needed help from this type of specialist now I would have to go back through the Health Service again and visit my own doctor. That could take about six weeks. I do have a social worker and I get help from the Avalon Group. I find the support that 'In Care Abuse Survivors' (INCAS) gives to survivors invaluable.

52. I am on a lot of medication. I take anti-depressant medication, I am diabetic and I am on anti-psychotic medication as well. I have attempted to take my own life a number of times and I have suffered from flashbacks.

53. I have no happy memories of my time in foster care. It was disastrous. I have a lot of hang-ups these days and there are three people I blame - **FJB**, **FJA** and Father **MXF** - and they've all gone to their graves.

54. I have to ask myself, 'why were FJB and FJA not good to me?' They were good to their own children. They were good to [REDACTED]. They didn't buy me clothes. They got a grant from the Social Services to buy us clothes and I still had shorts on in the middle of December. The other three kids and [REDACTED] would be wearing Wrangler jeans.

Subsequent contact with the Catholic Church

55. My wife and I got married in a registry office. Our local priest where I now live was not very happy about it and he came to talk to us. I explained to him what had happened to me when I was young. Our priest then talked to whoever was in charge of Child Protection within the Catholic Church and he then liaised with Scotland. We had a meeting with our own Bishop here, who is called bishop John. He was extremely supportive. We had some assistance from the Bishop of Ayr.

56. I went back to [REDACTED] church a few years ago; I think it was around 2004. I wanted to confront Father MXF [REDACTED] about what had happened to me all those years ago. I wanted to face my demons. Father MXF [REDACTED] was dead but we spoke to the housekeeper at the priest house. The housekeeper had been there for a long time so she must have been there around at the time Father MXF [REDACTED] abused me. She said that she knew FJB [REDACTED] and used to work with him in a borstal called [REDACTED]. I didn't even know that FJB [REDACTED] had worked at [REDACTED]. Also the housekeeper said that she didn't know that FJB [REDACTED] fostered children. I don't remember her name.

57. Bishop Taylor, the Bishop of Ayr listened to me when I went up to Scotland. I told him what had happened to me. He said that he didn't have any evidence but he believed me. He paid our accommodation bill when we stayed in Ayr. I don't think he ever knew Father MXF [REDACTED].

58. I was going to church until 18 months ago. I stopped because I thought that the church was making me forgive Father MXF [REDACTED]. I wasn't doing that.

Final Thoughts

59. If I was able to give any young person in a similar position to me advice, it would be to tell someone. I still don't think that I would have told anyone anything. That is because I felt guilty. I never reported these matters to the Police.

60. The lack of records about my life upsets me and I feel that I should know more about who I am. When people go to a doctor they are sometimes asked about their family medical history. I don't know anything like that.

61. I wish that I'd been able to have children of my own but the effects of the abuse made it very difficult for me to trust anyone enough to have a long term relationship.

61. I'll never understand why I had to be separated from my siblings.

62. I don't know why I was put in to a Catholic home and my siblings were place in Non-Catholic homes.

63. I have not attended the National Confidential Forum.

64. 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..... FCN [Redacted Signature]

Dated..... 2 - 9 - 16

