

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

FDF [REDACTED]

Support person present: Yes

1. My full name is FDF [REDACTED] which is my married name. My name at birth was FDF [REDACTED] I changed my name when I was a teenager to FDF [REDACTED] FDF [REDACTED] was my foster parents' name. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1965. I am 53 years old. My contact details are known to the inquiry.

Background

2. I was born in Irvine Hospital and lived in Kilwinning. My mother was [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and my dad was [REDACTED] I had four brothers. I had older twin brothers, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who were seven years older than me, and my brother, [REDACTED] who was a year older than me. I also had a brother [REDACTED] who was born two years after me, but he was adopted out.
3. My mum also had another baby daughter who must have been born between 1959 and 1963, but she died. I have looked at the birth and death records in Scotland and can't find anything about her.
4. When I was born, I think I lived with my mother, until I was ten months old. I was then taken from her. We were all taken away from her because she was an alcoholic and neglected us.

Early life in care

5. I was taken to Hazeldene Children's Home, which was on Blair Road in Kilwinning. I know this from my records. I think [REDACTED] was taken there with me, but I am not sure about my other brothers.
6. I think I was in Hazeldene for about two years but I am not sure. I don't have a memory of this but I know from my records that [REDACTED] and I were placed with a foster family, but it didn't work out. Then we were placed with a second foster family, and then a third. I assume that Hazeldene was placing us with the families.
7. We were placed with the FKB/FKE family in 1967, who were the third foster placement. I would have been about two years old at the time and [REDACTED] would have been three. I stayed with that family until I was seventeen years old.

Foster Care – FKB/FKE [REDACTED] Kilwinning

8. I don't have initial memories of going to live with the FKB/FKE because I was very young. I think it was in 1967 or even 1969, so I was anywhere from two or four years old, but I can't be sure. The couple who fostered us were called FKB/FKE [REDACTED] and they lived on [REDACTED] in Kilwinning. It was in quite a rough area of town.
9. The FKB/FKE were an older couple who were in their fifties, I think. They had about five grown up children of their own who had left home. They also had adopted children who had grown up and left. There were also other foster children in the house.
10. When I lived there, the FKB/FKE had their biological granddaughter also with them. Her name was [REDACTED] and she was a year younger than me. There were also another two foster boys who lived there. Including [REDACTED] and I, there were five children in the house altogether.

11. The house had three bedrooms and one bathroom upstairs. I shared a bedroom with [REDACTED]. We had our own single beds. I had my own clothes but I didn't really have toys. The FKB/FKE had their own room. [REDACTED] shared a room with the other two foster boys, but I don't know how long they stayed there.
12. I think the two foster boys must have left when I was quite young. They were old enough to leave. I think one went to the air force, and I don't know where the other one went. Most of my memories don't include them and are just of [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and me.
13. Downstairs in the house there was a living room, kitchen, dining room and a little cubby hole under the stairs. There were gardens at the front and back of the house.
14. [REDACTED] and I called the FKB/FKE mum and dad. I can't remember if they told us to do that when we first moved there. [REDACTED] called them gran and grandad.
15. Mr FKB worked in an explosives factory in Stevenston until he retired. I think Mrs FKE stayed at home. We moved house when I was about ten years old, but we just moved to another house in the same area. Mrs FKE later started to work part time in a café in Irvine around the same time.

Routine

16. I don't remember anything from when I was very young. When I was a bit older, we got ourselves up in the morning and got washed and ready ourselves.
17. We always had clean clothes but we didn't get to choose what to wear. Mrs FKE would tell us what to wear the night before. [REDACTED] and me always had to wear the same outfit. She also knitted a lot and knitted jumpers and things. I was only able to wear what I wanted when I got a job at fourteen years old and started buying my own clothes.

18. When I was younger, I remember Mrs FKE would make us breakfast in the mornings. She would make porridge, scones or pancakes. This changed when I was about ten years old and we started having to make them breakfast.
19. We had to make the FKB/FKE breakfast every morning before going to school, as well as making our own. and me all had to do this. He had tea and toast, and she had hot lemon water and toast. We had to do this at weekends too.
20. We would go to school. After school, we would come home and have dinner. Mr FKB would watch TV in the living room in the evening. We had to watch what he was watching, which was always sport or the news, or go to our rooms or outside. We could watch what we wanted to for a little while on a Saturday morning.
21. We could also play in the garden after school and at weekends. I didn't play with much as we didn't get on. We argued a lot. Looking back, I wasn't an easy child. I was withdrawn and never had a lot of friends.
22. Playing in the garden was restricted as we got older because we had chores to do. Mrs FKE was a very clean and tidy person and she always wanted the house clean.
23. We had to go to bed at a certain time and we just got ourselves ready for bed. I was there from a young age but we never had anything like bed time stories.
24. I remember Mrs FKE practising spelling with us once with words she kept in a little tin. That was when I was quite young.

Bath times

25. We were only allowed to take a bath once a week, and that was after Mr FKB had taken his bath. We then had to get into his used bath water to wash ourselves. All three of us had to use his bath water. That was the only bath we had all week. We just washed our face the rest of the week.

26. I was allowed to start having my own baths when I was about a teenager. It was the same for the others. We could then decide when we wanted to bath but could still only do it once a week.

Food

27. We had to make our own breakfast in the mornings, as well as making breakfast for the foster parents. We would make porridge or toast. We were quite young when we had to start doing that, but I don't remember how old.
28. We had lunch at school on school days. At tea time, we got food at home. The foster mum actually made really good, home cooked food. We all sat and ate together at the table in the dining room. We weren't allowed to talk or laugh during mealtimes. We would get punished if we made any noise.
29. We all had to eat what was put on our plate at dinner, and if we didn't, we got given it again the next dinner time. It would be heated up and given to us again. If you didn't eat it again, you would get threatened with being beaten, then you would be beaten. You would usually eat it when it was served up again, out of fear of being beaten. This happened to my brother and [REDACTED] too.

Schooling

30. I started school when I was five years old. I went to Corsehill Primary School in Kilwinning. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] went there too.
31. School was horrible for me. Other children knew that [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and I lived in the same house, but [REDACTED] had the surname FKB/FKE and [REDACTED] and I were called [REDACTED]. Kids would say to me that they weren't my real parents, and it bothered me. I learned quite early that the FKB/FKE weren't my real parents.
32. I would come back home and tell Mrs FKE [REDACTED] what the children were saying, and she would tell me to tell them that I was chosen.

33. I was also really skinny at school. FKB would always tell me I was really skinny and things like that so I didn't have a good feeling about myself going into school.
34. We also got picked on for what we wore at school. Although we had a school uniform, Mrs FKE still had to buy jackets and shoes and things. She was much older than the other parents so the things she bought us to wear were really old fashioned compared to other kids. She once bought us boots that we really didn't want to wear but we had to. We really got picked on at school because of them. and I wore the same.
35. My school reports would say that I wouldn't concentrate and that I wasn't very bright. Looking back as an adult, I think I probably did have problems and they came from what was being said to me at home.
36. I was reserved and quiet. I had some friends but not many. I was quite a withdrawn child and never felt that I fit in anywhere. I knew my mother didn't want me and I knew I didn't belong with the FKB/FKE School didn't do anything to make my life easier or try to find out what was going on.
37. I started Kilwinning High School when I was twelve years old. School never got better for me. I became rebellious and aggressive in high school. I got violent with a girl who made comments about my family life. I also got physically aggressive with her. The school threatened to phone the police and the FKB/FKE weren't happy. I also had a continuing problem with a teacher who I was aggressive with.
38. We used to do our homework in our bedrooms. We never got any help with it.

Chores and weekends

39. The whole house had to be spotless and we had to clean it at weekends, usually on a Saturday. This started when I was about ten years old. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] had to do it too. We were treated the same when it came to chores.
40. Mrs FKE [REDACTED] would do the washing and we had to hang it up. We had to get on our knees with the dust pan and brush. We had to Hoover and do the dusting in the whole house. We had to clean the windows and blinds. The bathroom and kitchens had to be cleaned.
41. The FKB/FKE [REDACTED] bred Siamese cats and they were kept in a hut in the garden. We had to clean that too.
42. Mrs FKE [REDACTED] used to come into our bedroom and check if it was clean. If she didn't think our cupboards were neat enough, she would empty all our clothes onto the floor and we would have to put it back neatly. She would then inspect it.
43. We were not allowed to go out and play until we had done all the cleaning. It would take forever. We just knew to do it and we had to keep doing it until she thought it was right.
44. We didn't get any pocket money or praise for doing the chores. If you broke anything during dusting, it was hell. Mrs FKE [REDACTED] would be very angry.
45. We could go outside to play after doing chores. We didn't have anything in the house really to do. We didn't have many toys or books to read. We couldn't watch telly because FKB [REDACTED] was always watching it. We preferred being outside.
46. The FKB/FKE [REDACTED] were religious and went to church every Sunday. We had to go to Sunday school while they went to church. We didn't have a choice. I remember we would get dressed up for it.

47. I got a job working on a market stall, on a Saturday morning, selling baby clothes when I was fourteen years old. I had to do that if I wanted pocket money.

Trips and holidays

48. We didn't ever get taken food shopping or anything. We stayed at home when the FKB/FKE did that.
49. Mrs FKE had an adopted daughter called [REDACTED] who was older and married to a man called FKF [REDACTED]. They had children and we would sometimes go and help to look after the children when [REDACTED] was at work.
50. We would also go on trips to visit Mrs FKE mother, who lived in Stevenston. She was a nice woman and the visits were nice. She would give us sweets. The FKB/FKE would get visits from their adopted kids.
51. We would go to the cinema and things with our own friends when we got to about thirteen or fourteen years old. They were never allowed to come to the house.
52. We went on trips to the shore a lot in the summer and the winter. The FKB/FKE had a caravan that I think they rented in Creetown. They would take the three of us with them. They were happy holidays. I remember going on fishing trips.

Social work and visits

53. I remember being told a social worker was coming when I was about five or six years old. I remember I got really bad diarrhoea. I think I was maybe scared.
54. I don't remember the social workers well. There was one that was called a Mr or Mrs Beattie. There was one called Dickson. I know there was a woman and a man. I think the woman was when I was younger, and the man was when I was a teenager. I don't think we saw them often.

55. I think the FKB/FKE always knew when the social worker was coming. We would be put in our best clothes.
56. I don't remember much about seeing the social workers. We knew not to say anything to them. I think we were told by the FKB/FKE not to say anything to them. We wouldn't have talked to them openly anyway because we couldn't even talk to the FKB/FKE openly.
57. I remember one visit where I was sitting in the living room and Mrs FKE was sitting next to me, and the social worker was sitting next to her. One of the FKB/FKE would always be in the room. I don't remember ever seeing a social worker alone.
58. On one occasion, the social worker came to visit me after knowing I had been raped. I was fifteen years old at the time. He tried to give me a talk about the birds and the bees.
59. One of my older twin brothers came to visit once when I was about twelve or thirteen years old. He took me to the children's home where both of my twin brothers lived because he wanted to show me it. I went and spent the night but I didn't like it so I never went back.
60. There was never any other contact between me and my brothers. I don't know how he found me.

Birthdays and Christmas

61. I don't remember any birthday being celebrated in the house. None of us ever had a birthday celebrated.
62. I remember Christmas. We had a Christmas tree but not decorations. There was no lead up to Christmas day but I remember the day itself was nice.

63. Mrs FKE family, including her adopted kids, would come round and we would have Christmas dinner. They were nice.
64. We got presents but not many. We would get a little doll and colouring books and small things like that.
65. We played a lot outside, even during the winter holidays. Everybody played outside then and we wanted to be outside.

Healthcare

66. The FKB/FKE would take me to the doctor when I needed to go. They would also take me to the opticians for my eyes. My eye used to jump to the left. My doctor wanted me to see a specialist but nothing was done.
67. I would see the dentist at school. I don't remember the FKB/FKE taking me to the dentist.
68. had problems with hearing. He was taken to see a doctor because the school had mentioned his hearing in his report.

Abuse in foster care

69. We weren't allowed to speak or laugh during mealtimes. The adults didn't speak either. We would get slapped across the head or get the belt if we made any noise. They didn't even have to threaten us because we just knew it would happen. This happened to all three of us. It was FKB who would hit us, but he would do this in front of his wife. She never hit us.
70. We didn't have a childhood. We just had to sit on the couch in the living room and not move or talk when Mr FKB was watching TV. We weren't even allowed to sit on the floor with colouring books and pencils. We would have to have them sitting neatly on

our lap. We couldn't be free. If we talked or moved about, he would give us a look of hate and dislike, then he would give us the belt.

71. The belt was right there in the room, hanging above the fire place. It wasn't like a proper belt that you wore. It was made to hit. It was long and split at the end. I think people also call it a tawse. We all got the belt, but I got it more than the other two did. He really didn't like me.
72. One time, we sneaked into the kitchen at night time, climbed on the cupboards and took some biscuits. FKB [REDACTED] heard us. He came into the bedroom, pulled back the sheets and gave me and [REDACTED] the belt.
73. He also gave us the belt if we had any complaints or bad reports from school. He always gave us it over our clothes on our legs, backside and sometimes on the arms. We got the belt often. He put the fear of god into us with the belt and threatened us with it.
74. FKB [REDACTED] told me that I was stupid almost every day. He would tell me that I wasn't going anywhere in life and that I would just turn out to be a drunk like my mother. He would call her a slut and a whore and say that she was nothing, and that I would be just like her. His wife would also say these kinds of things, but not as much as he said it. I grew up hating my birth mother.
75. FKB [REDACTED] also used to call me names about my appearance. He would tell me I was too skinny. I had problems with my eyes when I was small and FKB [REDACTED] used to make fun of me for it and call me names like 'skelly' and 'glaekit.' I have never liked to look directly at people because of it.
76. On one occasion there was a singer called Lena Zavaroni who came on the TV, and FKB [REDACTED] made comments to me saying that I would never be like her because I was stupid and would be a drunk waste of space like my mother. He used every excuse to put me down. It happened often.

77. [REDACTED] was definitely treated better than [REDACTED] and I were. She didn't get the verbal abuse that [REDACTED] and I got. I got the worst verbal abuse. FKB [REDACTED] just didn't like me.
78. We were so restricted that we didn't even ask if kids could come round. We just knew that it wasn't allowed. We were not allowed to have an opinion. We just lived there.

Sexual abuse

79. I am almost certain that there was some sexual abuse. I remember when we lived in the first house, when I was very young, I was scared to go upstairs. I couldn't go upstairs to the toilet on my own. My brother would have to wait at the bottom of the stairs for me.
80. I remember I used to masturbate as a child. I didn't know what it was, and one time FKB/FKE [REDACTED] asked me what I was doing. I didn't understand it at the time, but looking back, I wonder why I was doing that.
81. I have visions of FKB [REDACTED] being in my room and standing by my bed, and I was sitting up on my bed. I don't know exactly what he done, but I know something happened. This was when I was about twelve or thirteen years old and had my own room. I don't even know what happened but I think it was a frequent thing.
82. I was raped by FKF [REDACTED] when I was a teenager. I am not sure how old I was but it was before I was fifteen years old. He was the husband of [REDACTED], who was another of the FKB/FKE [REDACTED] adopted daughters. This happened in their house when [REDACTED] was out working and I was helping to look after the kids. I think FKF [REDACTED] was about ten years older than me. I didn't tell anybody.
83. I was raped when I was fifteen years old, only two weeks before my sixteenth birthday. There was a gala in the town every summer. I went to that in the evening and then I was allowed to go to the evening disco with a friend from school. On the way back home from the disco, I was taken by six men into a field and raped.

84. The FKB/FKE had an adopted daughter who lived in the town, and I managed to make my way to her house. She called the police and Mrs FKE who both came. I went in the police car with Mrs FKE and that was the first time Mrs FKE ever gave me a hug.

Reporting of abuse

85. The rape by the six men was reported to the police at the time it happened, when I was fifteen years old. Three of the men were charged, it went to court and the men were jailed.
86. I never reported the physical abuse by FKB I didn't report that at the time because that was just the way things were. It was only until later, when I realised how other people had lived and had nice memories of their childhood, that I realised mine wasn't right.

Leaving foster care

87. I left school after the rape. I didn't finish school. I got a job working in a factory when I was sixteen years old. I was there for just under a year and then I was let go. Social work then got me a job working in FKB store in Irvine.
88. I left the FKB/FKE when I was about seventeen years old. FKB left when he was sixteen years old. I don't know if he had the option of staying longer.
89. The family of the men who had raped me started harassing the FKB/FKE by saying it was my fault and not the fault of the men. The FKB/FKE couldn't handle the harassment and started saying I was just like my mother.
90. I remember the day I left, I had only a plastic carrier bag with my things in it. I don't remember social work involvement in arranging me leaving. I don't know if I had an

argument and left, or if the FKB/FKE told me to leave. I can't remember now. I never spoke to the FKB/FKE again.

91. I went to stay with my brother, [REDACTED] who lived in Irvine.

Life after foster care

92. I moved out of my brother's house quite quickly. He was married and had children. His wife's sister also lived there. He had an argument with me and when I tried to walk away, he pulled me by the hair because I hadn't paid my rent yet. I knew I couldn't live there.
93. I must have still been in the care of the social work because they helped me to get a flat in Irvine. They applied for compensation for the rape and I was awarded £3000, which went towards getting furniture. Then I was on my own to pay rent and look after myself.
94. I was still working in [REDACTED] I worked in their cafeteria for about a year, and then I started working in the [REDACTED] department. I did that for about six years.
95. I saw the FKB/FKE in the street once but i walked past them. I never saw them again.
96. I was living on my own and it was very difficult, financially. I would walk half an hour to work and back, even in the rain, because I couldn't afford bus fares. I remember not even having toilet paper in the house because I didn't have money.
97. I didn't have any family really. I wasn't close to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] because we hadn't grown up together. I had an argument with [REDACTED] and we didn't talk for the next 25 years.
98. There was an older woman called [REDACTED] who worked with me in [REDACTED] She and her husband, [REDACTED] lived near me and they took me under their wing. They were the first people who were actually like parents towards to me.

99. My life wasn't really going anywhere. I was in a bad place financially and was in bad relationships. I just let men use me. I realised I wasn't in a good place and didn't feel good about myself, so I decided to make changes.
100. I applied for a job out of the country, through an agency, and ended up in Switzerland when I was 22 years old. I worked for a family looking after their children. I was there for three months but it didn't work out. The wife of the house didn't like me. She would ask me to clean her kitchen at midnight. I asked the agency to find me another placement.
101. I ended up in Germany with a really nice couple. I worked there for two years. They were then moving back to America and they wanted me to go with them. I didn't go because I had met a German man and moved to Frankfurt with him.
102. I was with my boyfriend for five years and then my brother, [REDACTED], died. I came back to Scotland for the funeral. It wasn't easy for me, but when I went back to Frankfurt, my boyfriend wasn't supportive, and so we split up.
103. My birth mother died a few months after [REDACTED] died. I went back to Scotland for the funeral but when I got to Scotland, I couldn't actually go to the funeral because I hated her and didn't want her to go peacefully to her grave.
104. I started living by myself. I had a job at the airport in Frankfurt. I got a promotion after a year. I was in one company for fifteen years and then it closed. I was unemployed for two years and then got a job with another company, and I still work there. I have worked at the airport for about thirty years in total.
105. I work in special services in the airport and help the people who are sick or can't walk, to get their flights or rebook flights.
106. I had my first daughter when I was 31 years old from a relationship I had. The dad didn't want her but I kept her. Then I met my husband when I was 33, and had my

second daughter. I am divorced now. It has been a struggle to survive being a single parent with two children and no family. My family is just my two daughters.

Impact

107. The impact on my time in care was horrendous. It has affected my whole life.
108. When I was living alone in Irvine, I just let men use me. Looking back, I think I was looking for the love that I had never had. I thought if I gave them my body, then it would get me love, but it didn't.
109. I felt like I never really fitted in and had to leave Scotland. I never grew up with my brothers, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] so we never really had a closeness. I withdrew from them even further when I left Scotland. I talk to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] now but there will always be a distance there.
110. FKB [REDACTED] insults about being too skinny, my eyes and about being stupid have had a real effect on me. I have never liked to look directly at people because I am self-conscious about my eye. I had an eye operation as an adult to rectify my eye, but to this day, I still don't like looking at people.
111. I have never had much confidence in myself or any self-worth. FKB [REDACTED] comments about me never amounting to anything have really stuck with me throughout my life.
112. I am reserved and insecure. I don't like people talking to me and feel uncomfortable in groups.
113. I never met my birth mother, and couldn't even bring myself to go to her funeral when she died because I hated her so much. I hated her for the situation she put me in. I hated her because of the things FKB [REDACTED] used to say about her. I found out later

that she was actually mentally ill. Her father had committed suicide and her mum died when she was seventeen years old.

114. I grew up with hate for her because of the things FKB said about her. I never met her because of that. I am now trying to work on forgiving her but it is hard because I never met her and only ever heard bad things about her.
115. Things might have been easier for me if I was given more information about my birth parents when I was young. I was trying to get information on my dad, which was hard. I had nothing to go on.
116. I have no education and qualifications. That is something that is embarrassing for me, especially because most people in Germany have an education. I don't like to talk about it.
117. My marriage broke up because of my lack of self-worth. My husband wanted me to go for further education. I started thinking it was because he thought I was stupid and not good enough. I didn't feel comfortable after that and ran away.
118. I never feel like I am good enough to be in a relationship. I can't see why anybody would want to be with me. I feel a lot of shame.
119. My lack of confidence and self-worth means that I never go for promotions at work. I just don't think I am good enough, even when my supervisors tell me to go for promotions.
120. I know I am a good person but I don't feel good about myself. I have not reached the stage where I like who I am.
121. I have no identity and don't even know who I am. I have nobody who can tell me what I was like as a child. I don't even have any photographs of me as a child.

Treatment and Support

- 122. I tried to get help with a German therapist a few times, but I couldn't communicate the way I wanted to so I never stuck with it.
- 123. I got in touch with Future Pathways in 2016, which was a huge help. I started getting psychiatric therapy around the same time. I now have an English speaking therapist, which is easier for me. It seems to be helping. I want to start living my life.
- 124. I have recently been diagnosed with complex post-traumatic stress disorder. The therapy is helping me work through that.
- 125. I have had two operations in the last sixteen months. I had a cyst in my stomach so a big piece of my intestine had to be removed. I also had a thyroid operation in February 2018. My doctor tells me this is all a result of the stress over the years.
- 126. I don't like taking medication but I have to take it for high blood pressure and for thyroid.

Records

- 127. I applied for my records in 2015. It took me a while to get them because at first they said they didn't have any. I wrote to the social work department in Irvine and then spoke to the boss there. He then had somebody find my records and wrote a very nice letter to me.
- 128. The letter said that the records were hard to read and he hoped that I had support in Germany to help me read them.
- 129. I got my records and read them. Then at one point, I got really angry at my mother for putting me in that situation, and I ripped them up. I had sent copies to my daughter so I have been able to get copies again.

Reporting to police

130. I only reported the rape by FKF a couple of months ago, in 2018. That was the first time I reported it.
131. I have never reported the abuse from FKB to the police.

Other information

132. I hope that social work and schools are more aware now. I hope that they pay more attention and when they see that children in care are reserved and not talking, they can try to find out why. I feel that a blind eye was turned when I was a child.
133. 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... FDF

Dated... 23. 10. 2018