

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

EZC

Support person present: No

1. My name is EZC. My birth name was EZC. My name as a child in care was EZC. My date of birth is 1963. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I was born in Rottenrow Hospital, in Glasgow. My mum was called and my dad was called. He was known as. I have a sister called who is fifteen years older than me. My family were Catholic.
3. My sister told me that when I was a young baby, my dad was in jail and my mum had a breakdown. I was in the pram in Glasgow and I didn't have any clothes on, so the police took me away. My sister was fifteen at the time. She recalls that I got back to my mum after about a year. My mum was living with my aunty but it didn't work out because my mum was still ill.
4. I was taken away again for about a year and was placed into foster care when I was about three years old. I don't remember anything about that time and I don't know which children's homes I stayed in. They would have been Catholic homes because the are staunch Catholics.

Foster Care – EYP-EYQ – Cumnock
both Stevenson, all Ayrshire

5. My foster parents were called EYP-EYQ. They had seven children of their own and one of them had spina bifida. The oldest is then there's and . The girls were teenagers when I went there. and were nearest in age to me. There's about five or six years between and me and a year between and .
6. My foster mum was in her late thirties when she got me. I called my foster mum, 'mammy' and my foster father, 'faither'. It was called a long term foster and I lived with EYP-EYQ from when I was three years old until I was sixteen years old. The first place I lived in with EYP-EYQ was Cumnock. There was a living room, kitchen and bedroom downstairs and three bedrooms upstairs. I was in the bottom room in the house. I shared with the older girls in the beginning and I remember damaging all their make-up.
7. When I was about five years old, EYP-EYQ fostered another child called . was a newborn baby. I later shared a room with and we slept in bunkbeds. We moved to in Stevenson when I was about ten or eleven years old. Living in were my foster parents, , me and . We moved to in Stevenson when I was at the high school.
8. My foster parents said I was special because they chose me. My foster mum told a story about how she went with her mother-in-law to a children's home. I was standing crying and she said she wanted me.
9. My foster father was a labourer. He was an unemotional, detached man who never spoke to his children. My foster father got his dinner and then went to the pub. He wasn't an alcoholic but more a man's man. He brought people back to house all the time and they had parties.

10. There was no depth to my foster parent's lives and they were parochial. They sat at the window and talked about people all the time. I knew I didn't belong there. When I realised I wasn't a blood relative then I was relieved. The house was a hovel and not a nice place for a child to be, especially a vulnerable child. We were a lot more wealthy in Stevenson. My foster mum became a school cleaner. The house in Stevenson was never a happy place but I started to detach myself from EYP-EYQ and grow.

Routine in Foster Care

General Routine

11. I was very damaged when I went into foster care. I couldn't eat and could only take porridge or soup. I ripped up the blankets. I sat and rocked constantly. I rocked right up until I was about seventeen or eighteen years old. I was very insular and shy.
12. I can't remember a routine and I don't think my foster parents had a routine. It's all vague and the things I remember are the horrible things like the abuse. EYP-EYQ used to deal with me more than my foster mum and helped me get dressed.
13. There was always a coal fire on. My foster mum had a wee table in the kitchen. We sat and had our meals on our knees. The family were impoverished and the food was bad. Sometimes you'd have porridge or lentil soup for your dinner. We ate stovies. My foster mum sent me out to the butchers to ask for credit. I had to ask for a pound of mince until Friday and I'd be really embarrassed.
14. I was constantly hungry. The other EYP-EYQ were the same. I had school lunches and I couldn't get enough of them. I was always up for extras. I hated eggs but my foster mum fed me them. The yolks turned my stomach.
15. We got clean clothes once a week and a bath on a Sunday. I never had a toothbrush until I went to the army.

16. I didn't watch any children's TV programmes. As soon as I got home from school I was put in my room. I sat in the room and rocked. I said to myself, "Please God, don't let my dad hit me." Every night my foster father came back to batter me. I didn't think about running away because I had nowhere else to go.
17. I didn't have any friends and it took me a long time to work out how to make friends. There was a washing pole at the back door that I held onto and walked around in circles.
18. In Stevenson, I didn't get pocket money. I don't think any of EYP-EYQ children got pocket money. I stole from the shops and put chocolate bars in my wellies. It was that bad I was banned from all the local shops in the council estate. The shopkeepers didn't phone the police. I had to go to the next town when my foster mum sent me to the shops. We went to scrambles when somebody got married in the street and got money from that. A scramble was when the groom threw lots of coins in the street for children to pick up and keep.
19. I never had new clothes. I always had hand me downs from a cousin related to my foster family called [REDACTED]. I felt ashamed and she looked down on me. I didn't know my foster mum got money for me.
20. From as soon as I knew about religion, I was very religious. I was always at the chapel and I was good friends with the priest. Religion was my comfort. I loved religion and I still do.

School

21. I went to a little Catholic school called St John's in Cumnock. We walked to school at first. It was quite far. I had holes in my wellies and it would be snowing. Later we got the bus. My brothers would torment me by taking me through the graveyard and telling me Bible John was going to get me. Bible John was a serial killer in Scotland at the time and the police were looking for him.

22. A teacher in the remedial class tried to take an interest in me. I was smelly and the teacher noticed when my hair was washed. When I was about eight years old I was becoming aware that I wasn't the same as the other children. I knew I was buggy and scabby. I think all [REDACTED] were. They were a dirty family. The teacher ran after me trying to put ribbons in my hair. The remedial class was in a porta cabin and I climbed under it to hide from her. I didn't want the ribbons in my hair. The girls at school always looked really shiny and I admired those girls. I wanted to look shiny so I got some Vaseline and put it all over my face.

23. At art I drew black pictures. I'd start off and colour it all in black. I was spiteful at school. I threw the last piece of a jigsaw out of the window and bashed all the sandcastles in the sand play. I got battered and bullied at school. The children sang a song about me. It went like this,

*"There she goes, there she goes
Hairy heels and pointy toes
Look at her feet, she thinks she's neat
Black stockings and dirty feet."*

24. You would think school would have picked up on my drawings, along with the fact I was always starving, but the school was run by nuns. The nuns were evil. They stuck needles in your hand or belted you if you talked. If anyone talked at lunch, no-one was allowed to eat until the person stood up and admitted talking. I was put into remedial with people who did have learning disabilities. I knew I shouldn't be there but it was out of my control.

25. I went to high school at St Andrew's Academy in Saltcoats. [REDACTED] wouldn't let me do my homework. They said I needed to be in bed and I was trying to get above my station. I got the strap every Monday morning because I hadn't done my German homework. The German teacher called the strap Big Bertha. I didn't tell school what was happening at home because I was too ashamed. I wasn't allowed to sit exams. I wanted to do German and they said no chance.

26. I made good friends in high school. There were three of us. I went to a girl's house for lunch and thought, wow. The family had lunch and talked. I would have loved that. When we moved to Stevenson, being sent to my room after school stopped and sometimes I would go to a friend's house after school. I played volleyball at high school but not after school. I was really good at volleyball but it wasn't picked up on when I was at school.

Healthcare

27. My foster mum took me to Doctor Boyd in Cumnock and told him that I was masturbating. He made me feel even worse and I didn't like that feeling. I'm not aware of being referred to a psychologist. I had measles when I was older. I probably saw the school dentist. I got the tuberculosis jag at high school.
28. When I got my period I didn't know what to do and I threw the pants out the window. My foster mum told me about periods then but there was no warning.
29. [REDACTED] got scalded. I don't how it happened. There was a big drama and in my eyes EYP-EYQ [REDACTED] over reacted. The drama made me anxious and worried but that was dismissed and I was sent off to school. [REDACTED] took [REDACTED] to the doctors.

Birthdays and Christmas

30. I never had a party or a cake for my birthday. EYP-EYQ [REDACTED] didn't do that for their other children either. One year I got a present of an apple and a pair of slippers. Another year I got a manicure set. When I was quite young, my foster mum bought me a china tea set for my birthday. I threw it down the stairs and watched it all break. Later, my foster mum was bathing me in the sink. It was a redemption bath because my foster mum told me she was going to try to love me but I had to stop all my nonsense.
31. I was treated normally at Christmas and I got presents. We didn't have Christmas dinner. One year my foster mum was moaning that we didn't have any money and we had soup on Christmas Day. Things like that didn't bother me.

Visits / Inspections

32. I have very fond memories of my social worker when I was between five and seven years old. I can't remember her name. The social worker was kind, interested in me and I could be happy with her. She would take me for ice-cream and things like that. My social worker had a little Citroen C5 car.
33. My foster parents warned me when the social worker came that if I told them anything then I'd go to Rose's Home. My foster mum told me that they tied you on a wheel and whipped you all day at Rose's Home. She bought me new ribbons and made me look nice for the social worker. I had visits from my social worker in Cumnock and Stevenson.
34. I went to Stranraer in a caravan with my foster family. My cousins were there in a separate caravan. They were my dad's sister's children. I didn't get on with them. I was an insular child and I walked about with my head down. Who would want to be friends with someone like that?

Birth family

35. In my social work records, it says when I was sixteen either my dad or my sister tried to contact me. My mum would have still been alive then. The social work department decided that I was too settled in my care and contact would upset me. That's not the case because I was probably in Dalrymple Children's Home then.

Other foster child in the foster home

36. I didn't get close to [REDACTED] until we were adults and we had our own children. I was envious of [REDACTED] because she was treated totally different from me, in lots of ways. For example, [REDACTED] got nice clothes and EYP-EYQ [REDACTED] were always praising [REDACTED] for how clever she was and how wonderful she was. I was the wee black sheep who wasn't able to achieve anything.

37. I knew I was worthless and [REDACTED] was the golden child. [REDACTED] says that she doesn't know why [REDACTED] EYP-EYQ treated me like that. It's probably because [REDACTED] was a normal child who didn't have any issues when she came in the house. [REDACTED] came in as a baby.

Abuse in Foster Care

38. The foster parents couldn't cope. They thought my rocking was me masturbating. That was their thought process. My foster parents went to school and told the nuns to watch me because they thought I masturbated. When I came back from school, my foster mum would smell my fingers to see if I had been playing with myself. If she thought my fingers smelled fishy or she thought I'd done something meriting being put in the room, then she put me in my room. My foster mum said my foster father would deal with me.
39. When my foster father came home he would take the belt off his trousers and hit me with the belt on my bare bum. That always happened in my bed. I would rock and my foster parents would tie me up because I was rocking. They tied my wrists to the headboard, either side of my head and locked me in the room. That went on every night, throughout my childhood until I moved to Stevenson. There was a change in my foster father at the end of living in Cumnock. I think he started to feel sorry for me. My foster father told me to tell my foster mum that he had hit me but he just hit the bedcovers.
40. When I was in bed, I rocked. The rocking made my long hair tussled and knotty. My hair was a mess and my foster mum said I was doing it deliberately. In the morning she brushed my hair and battered my head with the hairbrush. My foster mum got angrier and angrier and pulled my hair. A number of times, the brush broke over my head. [REDACTED] saw that.
41. I hated eggs and flipped them behind the kitchen unit. My foster mum didn't notice for ages but one day she pulled the cupboard out. She went ballistic. She shouted at me,

battered me with her hand and sent me to the room. I was always really thirsty. I would take [REDACTED]'s potty, flush the toilet and fill the potty with water. Then I drank the water out of the potty. I brought homework home to EYP-EYQ [REDACTED] and they battered me because I couldn't read. My foster mum pulled me upstairs by my hair.

42. When I was seven or eight years old in Cumnock, I was abused by my foster brother [REDACTED]. He would lie me on the couch and fondle me. [REDACTED] took my pants down and fingered me. He asked if I wanted to see his penis and I said no because I was terrified. [REDACTED] said if he did anything to me then it would hurt me. He was probably aroused but I wouldn't have known that. He came home from the Navy and sat me on his knee. He was fondling me and I knew it wasn't right.
43. Another drama started when I moved to Stevenson. My foster mum went to work as a school cleaner. When I came home from school, my foster father would grab me, press his groin against me and put his tongue down my throat. He did this to me for ages and he was obviously getting off on it. My foster father was rubbing himself up and down on my pelvic area. That went on for a long time and my foster father did it any chance he could get. He would shout me upstairs. I don't know why I went upstairs when he shouted me. He even tried to kiss me on my wedding day. I said he must be joking and he was disgusting. My foster father said I was special to him and he loved me.
44. When I was twelve or thirteen years old, [REDACTED] had a girlfriend. He decided he was going to practice 'how to break somebody in' on me. That's what he called it. The abuse happened in [REDACTED]'s bedroom on his bed. [REDACTED] didn't penetrate me but he told me to use my fingers and a tampon while he watched. I can't remember if [REDACTED] touched me. Maybe [REDACTED] thought it was alright because we were close. He went on to marry the girl that he was practising for.
45. I was the quiet and dour one in the family. I was abused by three of them because they knew I didn't have anybody and I was vulnerable. Cousins came over and the EYP-EYQ [REDACTED] would shout me down from my room. They said to the cousins, "Wait 'til you see this, she won't even ask for anything." Then they asked me if I wanted a sweetie

and I wouldn't say anything. I was fearful all the time. One of the older sisters tormented me with spiders. She had a little purse that they threw at me and laughed.

46. [REDACTED] became a farm worker. He would bring home a chicken, take the head off it and let it run about the house. That's the kind of house it was. My foster mum hit [REDACTED] a lot with a sweeping brush. She chased him under the bed and pelted him with the brush.
47. I didn't tell my social worker about the abuse because I thought it was normal.

Leaving Foster Care

48. I was sixteen years old and we lived in [REDACTED]. I had a job in Tesco, through the Youth Training Scheme. [REDACTED] EYP-EYQ went to bed before I came home so they wouldn't need to speak to me. I had to give all my wages to my foster mum. I could tell I wasn't wanted. I said I was joining the army and [REDACTED] EYP-EYQ said I wouldn't come to anything. They called me 'Stupid' [REDACTED] EZC.
49. The argument came and it was just an excuse. Somebody had used Carnation Milk in the house and I got the blame. My foster mum threw me out and I had nowhere to go. I took all my stuff. I had a boyfriend who had a lovely family. My boyfriend took me to his house and his mum let me stay for a couple of nights. Then his mum phoned social services and they put me in Dalrymple Children's Home. I wasn't old enough to leave care because you had to be eighteen years old.

Dalrymple Children's Home, Dalrymple Place, Irvine, Ayrshire

50. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Contact with foster family after leaving care

59. I kept in contact with [EYP-EYQ]. I'm not sure why. I think I wanted to prove to them that I wasn't that [EYC] and I was going to be successful. When I was about seventeen years old and came back from the army, [REDACTED] was giving me a lift somewhere. I had a go at him about him abusing me when I was a child. I told him I was strong now and I wouldn't put up with it. [REDACTED] admitted fondling me and said he should have raped me when he had the chance.
60. I went to see my foster father before he died. All his family were at the hospital. He was saying to me that he loved me. When he died, my foster mum asked me why he had a picture of me in his wallet. I didn't know.
61. I invited all [EYP-EYQ] to my wedding. I had an amazing wedding. As I walked up the aisle, looking at them, I was thinking look at me and who I have become. When I first got married then I would come home to [EYP-EYQ]. They weren't interested and didn't ask me anything. Once, I had a go at them and told them the upbringing I had was disgusting.
62. They denied it all and my foster mum ran out the house to my foster sister's house. My foster father was sitting there and was probably shitting himself, wondering what I would tell her. If my foster mum had sat in the house long enough I would have told her what my foster father had been doing. Everything was up in arms and I was the black sheep. They told me to get back to where I belonged. My husband picked me up from the house and that was the last contact I had with [EYP-EYQ].

Life after being in care

63. I always wanted to join the army. I sat the army entrance exam and failed. I said to the recruitment man I had to get in because I had nowhere else to go. The army told me to prove I could hold down a job for a year, come back and try again. I tried the exam again and I was in. I was seventeen and a half years old.

64. I had to take the lowest trade as a stewardess. Once I was in the army, I was useless and always in trouble. It was hard to get past the basic training because I had no life skills. The army was harsh back then and they got me in the office, pointing the finger at me. The officer said I wasn't taking the army seriously. I broke down and said I had nowhere else to go. They supported me more after that and I got through the training. When I passed out after my basic army training, I invited EYP-EYQ. My foster mum said I was a feather in her cap. I thought, really?
65. I was sporty and played volleyball for the army and the county. I became a coach and a referee. I ran for the army too. I had an amazing time in the army and excelled in the end of the day. I made great friends and met my husband. We got married when I was 21 years old and we have 3 children. We've lived in England, Germany and Scotland.
66. The army didn't let you stay on when you got married so I went to the territorial army as a medic. After that, I was an instructor with the army cadets. We encouraged children from care to join the cadets and sometimes they were referred by social workers. The children came on camps and we kept an eye on them to make sure they were involved. Those kids had a great time and would often join the army. The army is a family in itself.
67. I went to college and did a vocational Physical Education course. Through that I worked for the YMCA as a Christian activity outreach worker in Germany. Then my husband and I came back to England. I started a degree in social work but I left after the first year. I was just scraping past. I thought training to be a social worker would be about listening skills, development and human behaviour but it was about marks and theories. I couldn't cope with that.
68. I then trained as a Christian counsellor. I had my children and did a Playgroup Practice Diploma. After that I became a nursery teacher and ran my own playgroup. I taught other army wives physical training and took them running. I trained as a personal trainer and did that for 25 years. I became an emergency carer when I moved to

Scotland. Now I'm a home carer and I love it. I've come to it late in life and it's my vocation.

Impact

69. The biggest impact is the lack of education. I'm still angry about it. It held me back so much. I'm bright and articulate but I've never reached my potential. I would have loved to be a police lady but I don't have the numeracy or literacy skills. I've gone to college and I've got vocational qualifications. I tried a degree but I couldn't do it because I couldn't do analytical thinking. I'd go to seminars and try to write things down but I couldn't. I still can't pronounce some words. People talk about compensation. Having an education is the biggest compensation for me.
70. I've had mental health all my adult life. I come across as positive, vivacious and kind. I am those things but when I'm on my own, it's dark. There were times when I'd hide for days. I'd shut the blinds and stay in my room. Things are not so bad since I've moved to Scotland. I am massively damaged and scarred by all that horribleness. My self-worth was on the floor and it's taken me years to gain self-worth. It's hard to put into words. I have tried and I have pushed through. I am proud of who I am. My biggest achievement is my children. I believe in the ethos of Christianity although my views have changed.
71. When I think about childhood memories and happy memories of childhood, I haven't got any. I was insular and sub human. It's amazing that I survived. It makes me really angry when I think about the behaviours I had and that no-one referred me to a psychologist. I think that's shocking. I had constant anxiety and worry about what was ahead of me. There was no happiness. I still get that anxiety and I wonder why I'm feeling like that. I have a beautiful husband and children but the anxiety is still there. When I'm intimate with my husband, I can't kiss him because of my foster father kissing me.

72. When I got to about eighteen years old, I put all my experiences in foster care in a box. I wasn't going to be that person from my past and I wanted to be a new person. The experiences were damaging and made me angry. A lot of it is blanked out and not in my cell memory. I rocked up until I joined the army. People asked me what I was doing and I had to stop it. That was hard.
73. I was too scared to have children because of what I had gone through. I thought I wouldn't be a good mum. I was married for seven years and it was only when my husband went to the Gulf War that I thought I could have children. I wrote him a letter saying if he came back we would have a baby.
74. I needed the skills to have a baby so I put myself on the Playgroup Practice Diploma course. In the course you do a child development study and you learn how to nourish and discipline children. I didn't have any nurturing skills because I hadn't had them bestowed on me. The tutor asked the class what discipline was and I said it was hitting children. I learned what discipline is. I didn't have to discipline my children but just used different tones of voice.
75. When I had my own children, how my foster mum could have done what she did to me really hit me. Before that I was still trying to please her and trying to prove myself to her. When I picked my children up from school then it would all be jolly. I'd make them a cake and we'd go to the park. I never had any of that. My children have never met any of EYP-EYQ, apart from [REDACTED]. I wouldn't want my children to be damaged in any way by them.
76. My son struggled at school and was angry. The primary school wrote him off so I got an educational psychologist in. He said my son was angry because he was frustrated. No-one was listening to him. The psychologist gave him all these labels in the report so I ripped it up. We decided to go down the private school route. It was just right for my son. He's a lovely gentleman now because he had that foundation and people who invested in him. My children all went through private school and all have degrees.

77. I was very protective of my oldest girl. She went for piano lessons with a man and had to be in the room on her own with him. Before she went in, I said that if he made her feel uncomfortable or she didn't like it she was to let me know. I've always had intuition and I can look at children in a playground and see which ones are abused and vulnerable. I had a badge on my head as a child saying I was vulnerable.
78. My children say I don't have social boundaries and always take things too far by being over familiar. I was worse when I was younger because I didn't know about social norms and boundaries. I can still be like that now. If the people around me now knew my background then they wouldn't believe it. I wouldn't want people to know.
79. I looked up my history before I had my own family. The surname is unusual and the first person I phoned was my uncle. I asked to speak to my mum and he said she died ten years ago. My uncle told me my dad and sister were still alive. I met up with them. I looked at my dad and sister and heard what they were saying. For self-preservation, I walked away. That was it. I don't know if my sister is still alive.
80. It's frustrating that social work didn't let my family contact me when I was sixteen. The decision was made by someone who hadn't met me and didn't know me. I would have met my mum and I would have saved her. My mum was institutionalised in a mental health hospital. I found her death certificate and it said she died alone of heart failure in a homeless hostel. My mum is in a pauper's grave in Glasgow. My sister let her die on her own. I wouldn't have let that happen to her.
81. [REDACTED] and I are very close now. She is the only person I call family. We talk about the abuse and she says she was scarred by seeing me abused. The abuse didn't happen to [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is a victim of EYP-EYQ [REDACTED] as well because she has moulded into them. I was strong enough to look at EYP-EYQ [REDACTED] and think I didn't want to be like that.
82. EYP-EYQ [REDACTED] hurt [REDACTED] because they are uncaring. When [REDACTED]'s children were young there was no support for her from our foster mum, as a mother would to a daughter. I told [REDACTED] not to let them emotionally abuse her anymore and to cut them off. She

wasn't strong enough to do that. [REDACTED] is in contact with EYP-EYQ [REDACTED] and she tells me the news about them and shows our foster mum pictures of me.

83. I saw [REDACTED] at my foster father's funeral and he pretended he didn't know me. He went to ground after that. He's probably worried that I'll tell people what he did. Only [REDACTED] knows where he lives.

Reporting of Abuse

84. I spoke to police from Kilmarnock a few months ago. One of the officers was called Tracey Thomson. She called me up and said she wasn't pursuing anything about my foster mother.
85. A few years ago, I was angry because [REDACTED] contacted me on social media. I called him a paedophile on social media. [REDACTED]'s stepdaughter got in touch with me and asked me why I had done that. I told [REDACTED]'s stepdaughter it was true and she said he had done that to her too. I told the police about that. They have spoken to her and it backs up what happened to me. However, she's not willing to go to court.

Treatment / support

86. I've worked on myself and read lots of self-help books. I trained as a counsellor but I wasn't very good at the training. The tutors said I just wanted to get on with it. Counselling doesn't help me because it regurgitates and doesn't solve. I've now got enough tools in my box to solve things for myself but you still can't get away from the dark times. I've been on anti-depressants all my adult life and I'm on the maximum dose of Citalopram.
87. I became a Christian when I was very young and learned about compassion and love. I spent a lot of time self-reflecting and forgiving. In some ways EYP-EYQ [REDACTED] are victims as well, not where the sexual abuse is concerned but the other stuff.

Records

88. I wrote to social work for my records before I had my own children. I was about 23 years old. The records were in Stevenson. I gathered there wasn't much in them. Social work just read the records to me over the phone and didn't give me a copy of them.

Lessons to be Learned

89. Children in care are at a disadvantage because they have no parents. There should be positive discrimination for them. They should be overwhelmed by support in things like education and finance. I struggled at school and should have had a link worker checking on my education. If I was failing then the link worker should have intervened. The parents that social work gave me didn't see the value in education.
90. There should be invasive visitation rights over children in care. When you are a child in that environment, the environment is all fear and anxiety. Even if you are away with a social worker for a day, you don't understand their significance. You just think they are a nice person.
91. There should be a scaling up of people who work with children. I had signs like the destructive behaviour, the black pictures, the constant hunger and the scabby clothes. That should have been picked up.
92. The money paid for fostering children shouldn't go directly to the foster parents. The foster parents should be more accountable for what they spend that money on. They should have to show clothes, school activity and education budgets.
93. Foster parents must meet a child's needs. My foster parents never met my needs. When children leave care they shouldn't be dumped in a council house. There should be some bridging of the gap, like a half-way house where children are taught

independent living. Children in care should be given apprenticeships if they are not academic.

94. Children in care are little, helpless people. They have no-one in the world. Children in care should be given all the things a loving parent would have given them. When I left care, that wasn't the case. You reached an age and the care system said, "Bye."
95. 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.....EZC.....

Dated.....20 January 2022.....