

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

FLQ

Support person present: No.

1. My name is FLQ My date of birth is 1962. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### Background

2. I started fostering in 1991 and fostered for around twenty two, twenty three years. I stopped fostering seven or eight years ago. My mum was a foster carer, so I learnt about fostering through her. When I met my husband, FLR we couldn't have our own children. We thought fostering would be a good way to help children. My husband is known as FLR We got married when I was twenty nine.
3. I was older when my mum started fostering. I was in my twenties. I did live with her for a while when she started fostering initially, but maybe only for two or three years. I then moved in with FLR My mum is called FLN and my dad was called FLM FLM He was also known as FLM My dad passed away in 2015.

### *Becoming a Foster Carer*

4. It took about a year for us to go through the fostering process. The first thing was that they came out to your house to check that everything was suitable. There was a lot of training and background checks. They knew the reason why we wanted to foster, because we couldn't have our own children and they spoke to us about how fostering wasn't a gateway to adopting. I told them if I wanted to adopt a child, I wouldn't have decided to foster.

### *Training*

5. We had to go to training camps with other foster parents. We were told about the good and bad of fostering. We did workshops with role play. That was very useful. They put us with different partners to act out various scenarios. I had obviously seen my mum fostering, but I did not really know the extent of what could have happened to the children before they came to us. This training was really eye opening for me. We had training every week that first year. It was a lot. **FLR** attended all of the training too.
6. We had training on how to look after children who had suffered sexual abuse. That was the big one. We also had training on emotional abuse and I don't like the word baggage, but some of the baggage the children can come with. We learnt what to expect when they were settling in. It was to help us understand what they were going through and teach us how to cope with it.
7. We had a link worker that we knew to contact if there were any child protection issues. Simon Morbie was mine. We also had the afterhours team that we could contact out of normal working hours. The children all had their own social workers.
8. We were given advice on how to give children into trouble. For example by grounding them. We had training on how to restrain a child if they were physically harming themselves or another. We actually had to act that out. They basically went through everything that could possibly happen and asked us what we would do in each scenario. My answer was always the same, it depended on the child and the circumstances. For me it would either be ground them, stop their pocket money or some time out. It depended on the child's age as well. We were spoken to about the different age groups and discipline.
9. I think we got factsheets and books to read up on as well. The books were like short story books to help us and the children cope. The children could read them too. They were about emotional things.

10. We were trained all the time. It continued monthly once we started fostering. It was things like health and care and eating habits. We would be told when there was some training coming up and asked if we wanted to attend. All the other carers would attend and you could share stories confidentially with them. It was really useful.
11. After a year of fostering that kind of regular training stopped and it was more like a yearly conference thing. It was optional, but social work told you they would rather you attended. New laws would come into force and we went to find out about them. You got to meet other carers again, it was great. [FLR] didn't attend these later conferences. I called him my silent partner. Social work and everyone knew that I was the main carer.
12. We did eventually change to long term fostering and had extra training when that happened. It was not as intense as when we first started fostering. It was more about emotional things. It felt like a process the social work had to go through, as opposed to us.

#### *Foster Care Arrangements*

13. We fostered under Glasgow City Council. I applied to do emergency foster care initially, which could be caring for a child from one night up to one week. I said I definitely couldn't take a child with a physical disability. I did not think I could cope with that and it would not have been fair on the child. I also said I could not take babies and asked for children aged four years old to sixteen, seventeen years old. I was happy to do aftercare if a child was coming out of care. I was more like a house mother then, as the young person could look after themselves. I just had to help them get ready for leaving care.
14. It was a bone of contention as to whether I was employed or not by social work. We never really knew. To this day I still don't know. I would ask social work and they would say we weren't employed. [FLR] and I were not working, however we could not sign on and get benefits. The job centre said they would have to send us for work if we signed on and we couldn't, as we were on call twenty four seven for the children. We then

couldn't get our stamps for our old age pension. We also couldn't get things like loans, as we weren't employed. We were stuck in the middle. For almost all of our fostering time we never claimed what we were entitled to. It wasn't about the money, but I was more concerned about my pension stamps. It wasn't a job for me, it was family.

15. Emergency placements would usually be for a week, but sometimes it could be for three weeks or even three months. If it was longer we would contact the social work for updates and they were always contacting us and coming to check up on the children. It was when, say the parent was in hospital for longer than expected. I did not feel like we had a say as to whether we could say no to an emergency placement. I felt like that was what we signed up for.

#### *Financial Support*

16. Social work said half the money we got was for the children and the other half was for our living expenses because we couldn't work. We were paid every two weeks, per child. Different age groups got different pay rates. I thought we were paid well.
17. We did not get extra financial support for things like clothes and shoes, but we did get extra money for birthdays and Christmas. I think it was like a hundred pounds for birthdays and a hundred pounds for Christmas. We would also get a hundred pounds for maybe a birthday party or Christmas dinner. They provided things like beds for our house and other furniture the children needed too.

#### *Your Foster Home Household*

18. When I first started fostering we stayed in [REDACTED] flats in Barmulloch, Glasgow. We were eight floors up. It was a high-rise flat and we had two bedrooms. It had a long hall with the bedrooms and bathroom along it and then at the end there was a livingroom with a kitchen off it and a balcony. The social work gave us bunkbeds and a single bed for the spare room. We fostered there for three years and had no less than three children at any one time.

19. After that we bought a house in Milton, [REDACTED] My parents lived in [REDACTED] [REDACTED] which was the next street over. [REDACTED] had four bedrooms, a livingroom and a kitchen. It was upstairs, downstairs. There was one bedroom downstairs beside the livingroom. Upstairs was the other three bedrooms and a bathroom. We lived there for about six, seven years. We were fostering the whole time we were there. I think I went up to four children then.
  
20. We then bought a bigger house in [REDACTED] and we finished off fostering there. When you went into [REDACTED] there was a set of stairs to go upstairs. There were four bedrooms upstairs, one with an en-suite and a separate family bathroom. Downstairs if you went straight on there was a kitchen and a utility room with the backdoor. There was a little toilet downstairs too. The livingroom was open planned with a dining room and patio doors. We also had a garage.

*Children Fostered*

21. We had lots of children for short periods of time and I can't remember all of their names. There must have been up to one hundred. We were mainly doing emergency fostering until two sisters, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] came to live with us at [REDACTED] The social work decided that they had to stay in care long term. They spoke to us about it and we decided to train and change to long term carers. The kids were allowed to stay with us while this happened.
  
22. Another two sisters, FDL [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] came when [REDACTED] was still living with us. [REDACTED] had moved in with her boyfriend by then. FDL [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] had lived with my mum from a young age. I think [REDACTED] was four and FDL [REDACTED] was six when they went to stay with my mum. I used to see them every day when they lived with my mum. There was stuff going on at my mum's that I didn't know about and the social work decided that FDL [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] needed long term care. My mum couldn't do it, so I said I would. My mum told me she wouldn't advise it as the girls had mental health issues.
  
23. FDL [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and the social work all said they really wanted for them to come and stay with us, so we eventually said yes. They already knew us well and they had school

and friends around us, so it made sense. FDL was maybe around nine years old and was seven years old when they came to stay with us. My mum told me the social work had initially helped her with their mental health problems, but then it stopped and she was angry about that. She did not know why it had stopped.

24. I was given paperwork with information about their parents and circumstances as to why they were in care. Social work didn't tell me about any engagement with mental health workers and why it had stopped. That was my mum that told me about that. There were a lot of things social work didn't relay properly in relation to FDL and .
25. I spoke with my link worker, Simon constantly about the girls and how they needed to speak to someone again. I also said to Janine their social worker, as a lot of other things kept coming up when they moved in with me.
26. FDL and were not really socially aware. They very seldom interacted with other children. I don't think I got the support I needed from social work with this. Simon may have spoken to his superiors about it and nothing was done by them. I don't know.
27. FDL and were thirteen and fifteen when they left us. FDL and all stayed with me for the longest time, but there were other kids coming and going. The most I had at any one time was six.
28. and came later on. came when she was four and that's when we moved to . I felt it was safer there in a cul-de-sac for a four year old and there was a big grassy bit for the kids to play on. had behavioural problems and took up a lot of my time.
29. I did mainly foster girls because of the amount of girls I had taken on and a boy wouldn't always fit in. I did foster FDL and 's brother, for a while, who had been with other carers since he was a baby. I think his foster parents retired and they were looking for somewhere else to put him. FDL and wanted him to come with us and begged me to let him stay. He was five at the time. I spoke with the social work

and he did eventually come, but it didn't work out. FDL and [REDACTED] hated him. They would hit him and push him down the stairs.

30. He did also have behavioural problems and was not fitting in at school. The school wanted me to stay there with him all day and I couldn't as I had other children to look after. Once he left I don't think I saw him again and I didn't ask what happened to him. It sounds bad, but once a child leaves your care you still have the other children to focus on and you don't always think about them again.
31. I didn't always gel with children when they were placed with me. Sometimes it just didn't work out. For me personally I had a wee family with [REDACTED], [REDACTED], FDL and [REDACTED], so my priority was always to them. I had to think who would fit in with them. If they didn't get on or if there was bullying I would have to say to social work. It could also maybe be if I couldn't cope with the child and I felt like the placement was disrupting the rest of the family. I was always very vocal in just saying to my link worker, Simon if I felt it wasn't working.
32. The longest child in my care was [REDACTED]. She was with me for eighteen years and is still in my life to this day. Her and her sister [REDACTED], [REDACTED] is getting married this year and FLR is walking her down the aisle. [REDACTED] has a daughter who is now fifteen and I consider her to be my granddaughter.
33. There was one incident where we received an emergency phone call from social work to say they were bringing us a little girl. She was eighteen months old. She came in and she was soaking wet in a black bin bag. Social work gave me whatever paperwork they had and then quickly left. It was the middle of the night. When I took her babygro off, I got the shock of my life as it was a little boy. I had to call aftercare and tell them. I was really angry as how did they not look to check or see his name. It was a one off and I wouldn't normally get a baby, but I think they were desperate. They did not even have a proper cover for him. I didn't have the space for this baby either, as I already had three children at the time. This baby was only with me for that night and a day.

34. I did take a lot of siblings as a foster parent. A lot of foster parents couldn't do that. I had three siblings for two years when I stayed in the [REDACTED] flats. They came in as an emergency placement. They were called [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were twins and about eleven years old. [REDACTED] was about nine, ten years old.
35. I went through a murder trial with [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. It was a really bad time. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] We did get a lot of support for them from social work. They spoke with the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, CAMHS. They realised that they had to give evidence against [REDACTED] who had told them to say that the man [REDACTED] sexually abused them. He hadn't. It got quite frightening as they were telling me things that I had to then pass on to the social work.
36. After the trial [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] wanted to stay with me long term and I agreed it would be good for them. Social work said they had to move them into a children's home for a year first, before we could do that. I didn't understand why as they were happy with me and already with us. They came back to me after that year in the children's home, but it didn't last long as I couldn't cope with them. I told the social work to their face they had destroyed those little girls lives. They came back to me with completely different mind-sets. It was really upsetting.
37. When I was fostering [REDACTED], FDL, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], I did still get other children as emergencies for maybe a few weeks or a few months. At one point near the end I think I went up to six children. It did cause some problems when new placements came in. The legislation then changed and social work said they wanted us all brought down to a maximum of three children.

#### *Placement Preparation*

38. I don't think there was any thought when matching a child with me. With emergency care you couldn't really, but even when I was long term I don't think there was. They would just show me a report, which told me about the child and I could say no at this stage. I did this one time because the child was in a wheelchair.



39. After reading the report, if I thought the child would be a good fit, I could say yes and we attended a care plan meeting. The social work would tell us about their care plan, for example what was expected of us and how much access the natural family would have. Then the child would maybe come to our house for a visit and have dinner. They could interact with some of the other kids. Then maybe the next week they would come for an overnight stay. Social work always tried to do it gradually, but it didn't always work out that way. Sometimes it was sped up if they had to move the child on quickly.
40. I always felt the children settled in really quickly with me. They were shy at first and maybe would scream when the social work left, but I just used a lot of distraction tactics and let them know I was there.

*Daily Routine and Sleeping Arrangements*

41. I can describe the sleeping arrangements in [REDACTED] as that is where we had the same children for the longest period of time and when I can remember. We had FDL and [REDACTED] in one room and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] in the other rooms. That wasn't for long as other children would come in and we had to move them around. With FDL and [REDACTED] we had to keep changing it as they kept fighting. FDL didn't want to share with anyone and this went on for years. We spoke to the social work and they paid to turn the downstairs garage into a bedroom for her.
42. I would get them up in the mornings and take them all to school. FLR was always up around four in the morning and I would get up at six and have a shower. I would run a bath for [REDACTED] then wake them all up. The three older girls had a shower in my ensuite bathroom and [REDACTED] would have her bath. They took turns in the shower as there was not enough time for everyone to have a bath. They would then all have breakfast at the diningroom table. It was usually cereal, but if we were early enough I would make them something hot like scrambled eggs. I then got them all together and took them up to school in the car. I had a big seven seater car that had a DVD player and a play station in it for long journeys. They all ate the school dinners, except [REDACTED]. She was a fussy eater and I would have to make her a packed lunch.

43. I would then pick them all up after school. As soon as they got back, it was uniforms off and homework. [REDACTED] would do hers at the dining room table and the others would do it in their rooms. FDL [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] would normally fight at this point and I had to separate them. I would then make dinner.
44. While I was making dinner they would be chilling or doing whatever. Every single one of them had televisions and DVDs in their bedrooms. I would shout when dinner was ready and we would all eat. It wasn't always quiet at dinner, so we would deal with whatever came up there.
45. [REDACTED]'s bedtime was eight o'clock. She didn't sleep then as she would watch a DVD and then it was lights out after that. For FDL [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], their lights were out at eleven o'clock.

*Washing and Bathing*

46. There was a strict rule that they were not allowed to come out of the bathroom in a towel. They had to take pyjamas or clothes in with them and get dressed in the bathroom before they came out. They weren't allowed night dresses or pyjamas with tiny shorts because there was a man in the house. There was plenty of privacy.

*Clothes and Shoes*

47. I bought the girls clothes, there was no extra allowance for that from social work. I would take them shopping with me, as I would buy them stuff they didn't like if I was on my own. They were teenagers. I would maybe pick up stuff for [REDACTED] as she was younger. My kids were spoiled. They got whatever they wanted. Social work always used to comment that every time they saw the girls they had new clothes on and they never saw them in the same clothes. I liked to spoil them.
48. There was a big shopping mall in Irvine that we went to at the weekends when we were staying at our family caravan. [REDACTED] was hard to buy for as she gave her clothes away. Sometimes I would just go with FDL [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] on their own.

*Mealtimes*

49. It wouldn't just be one dinner I would make. [REDACTED] and my husband were fussy eaters. There are only five things to this day that my husband will eat. FDL, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were fine, but I made myself something different too, as I liked to cook crazy stuff. FDL, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] would normally try whatever I had made for myself. I made all different things like lasagne and pasta or sometimes we would just have fish fingers and chips. We would usually have a take away on a Friday night.
50. After dinner the three big girls would fill the dishwasher, empty it and brush the floors. We rotated that and that was their chores for pocket money. They got their pocket money every Friday.
51. FLR couldn't cook, so it was me that did most of the cooking. He would make macaroni cheese now and then. FDL talks about that in her statement.

*Leisure Time*

52. It surprises me what FDL is saying in her statement because she never went out and never wanted to go out. We did go to the pictures, but that wasn't a lot. We went to the IMAX when that first came out in Glasgow. We would also go on our bikes and skates to Hogganfield Loch. That was nearby where we lived and we could sit and get a coffee or a juice.
53. The girls always had friends around our house. I was known in my neighbourhood as the kid whisperer. They always seemed to want to be in my house. We could be out in the back garden playing water fights or one time I got a big bouncy castle and all the kids in the neighbourhood came. I put on some hamburgers and couldn't get them to leave. FDL would always say no to things like that and I couldn't force her.

*Trips and Holidays*

54. We went to Salou maybe three or four times. We also went to Turkey a few times and Disneyland, Paris. One time [REDACTED] and FDL didn't come to Turkey as they had gone to France with the school. I remember them saying it was rubbish and they wished they had just come to Turkey with us. It was always just me, my mum and the girls. FLR didn't come. He still doesn't like going abroad and has not been abroad since we were married.
55. FDL says that they went abroad with my mum, but it was with me. My mum came with us and her foster daughter, [REDACTED]. It was definitely when FDL and [REDACTED] were living with us that we went abroad.
56. One year we booked a caravan at Sandylands for two weeks and we didn't go abroad. The difference in FDL was great. She had just started high school and she met a group of friends and was going out every night down to the complex. They pitched a tent outside our caravan and would sleep there sometimes. It was really positive for the girls and they said they wished we had a caravan, so me being me I got one.
57. When we got the caravan we would go there every Friday to Sunday. I would pick the girls up from school on a Friday in their uniforms and we would all go straight there. They would get their pocket money that Friday night when we arrived and go down to spend it at the entertainment.
58. We had the caravan for maybe four or five years. In the caravan FDL and [REDACTED] slept in one bedroom and me and my mum slept in another. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], slept in the third bedroom and [REDACTED] would pull the bed down in the livingroom. FLR would come to the caravan the odd time, as his friend and his wife also had a caravan there. He would pop down as his friend would drive him. He would make us all rolls and sausages and have a carry on then leave. That didn't happen often. [REDACTED] was always the one to ask if he was leaving any money.

59. We also went to a cabin one New Year. My mum and dad rented a cabin as well and my brother and his family. They were all next to each other. We just decided we thought it would be nice to bring in the bells as a family.

### *Schooling*

60. At the beginning, the girls went to St Augustine's Primary School, but then they built a new school and it changed to St Monica's.
61. I would help [REDACTED] with her homework, but I did not help FDL, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. They would ask me how to do it, but I honestly didn't know. I would help them look it up on the internet or we would try something else for them.
62. They had a form I had to sign when they had done their homework. They didn't have a set time for doing homework in the house. It all depended on how much they had been given. One time [REDACTED] was caught telling me that she had done her homework, when she hadn't. I just went by what the girls told me. The school contacted me and said she would be monitored. I was then able to see everything she was doing and was told when she had been given homework.
63. I went to all their parents evenings. I even took FDL's mum with me one time. I spoke to social work first and they didn't have a problem with it. One time when FDL was getting an award I also invited her mum and gran to that. I think it was for her reading. I had loads of books in my house and encouraged all the girls to read. I loved to read. It was always a series of books like *Harry Potter* or *I am Kate*.
64. I know FDL is saying I didn't encourage her to study, but one time she was struggling I got her a tutor. She said she didn't want a stranger teaching her, so my nephew [REDACTED] came to help her three times a week. He was at university. I couldn't help her and I am sorry about that, but I just didn't get that kind of stuff at school. I always made sure we got her the help though.

65. FDL came to me one time upset, saying that everyone thought she was smart and she wasn't. She was feeling stressed because exams were coming up and everyone said she could go to university. I told her so long as she did her best, that was absolutely fine and there was no expectations from me. We were laughing as I said to her look at ██████████, she's not bothered whether she passes or not.

*Healthcare*

66. None of my foster children ever had to go to hospital for anything that I can remember. I did have a book that I recorded medical things in. ██████████ kept getting an itch down below, so I had to take her to the doctors for that. They tried everything with creams and it would go away for a wee while, but then come back. I then got this thing from the health shop because I had itchy feet and we tried that on ██████████. It never came back after that. It was just an itch cream they sold in Holland and Barret. I can't remember the name.
67. As for the rest of them when it came to the doctor and the dentist, I would just take them when they needed to go. ██████████ started to get sexually active really young, so I took her to the doctors and asked to have her put on the pill. Everyone agreed. I did go in with her initially, but it was private, so I left her to speak with the doctor alone afterwards.
68. I also had to take FDL to the doctor as social work told me she tried to commit suicide. They had to speak to me about it as apparently she told them and did not want me to know. They asked if I had seen anything and I said absolutely not. I never saw any change in her, nothing at all. I just told them I had been asking for her to see someone for a while. Social work asked me to take her to the doctors, so I spoke to FDL and we booked her in with a female doctor. I was on high alert after that and slept downstairs for weeks, next to FDL's room on the couch. I couldn't sleep. I also moved medicine in the house to a locked cabinet. FDL knew I was doing all of this. I went in with FDL at first to the doctors, but then I left her to speak to the doctor on her own.

69. FDL was then referred to CAMHS. She had one meeting and I went with her again, but left her to speak to them alone. I waited for her finishing and then took her home afterwards. There was nothing more after that. I was basically just told by social work to put all the stuff that's dangerous away. I was panicking and thinking how can I keep her safe. I had to always make sure she wasn't going to do anything.
70. There were absolutely no signs to me that FDL was depressed. Nothing suddenly changed for me that showed she was suicidal. She wasn't acting suicidal, she was chatty and normal with me. It was a shock to me when social work came and told me she had attempted suicide. I made a point of looking at her arms without outright asking, but there was nothing there. I saw no signs at all.
71. I had a foster child that cut themselves, so I knew what to look out for. It was actually after she left my care, so social work were not involved. She still does it to this day.
72. I definitely felt like I was not given enough support with FDL through this time. I couldn't sleep and I told social work after a while that I had to get back to my own bed and sleep. I had other children to look after. All she had was that one CAMHS appointment. It was the same cycle my mum went through. I was blindsided as there were no signs to me that she was suicidal. I was more worried about her social interactions with others before all of this came up. It was nothing to do with her being depressed. I wanted her to speak with someone about social awareness. I thought she was just a moody teenager prior to all this.
73. I would buy sanitary products and bathing stuff for the girls, along with my weekly shopping. They would just tell me when they had run out of stuff and I would add it to my list. That's just the kind of stuff you always have in your house. There were no separate toothpastes and I am not sure where FDL is getting that from. I did have a smokers toothpaste and had a wee child friendly toothpaste, but I don't know why FDL is saying we all had separate toothpastes. Maybe she means toothbrushes.

*Discipline*

74. I cannot tell you when I ever had to discipline [FDL]. I gave her into trouble for things, but I couldn't ground her as she never went out. I would maybe take her electronics off her. The other kids used to say she would get away with everything because I never grounded her. I would say she never did anything to be grounded and it wasn't a punishment for her anyway.
75. I did withhold [REDACTED]'s pocket money once, as I caught her drinking at the caravan park. She collaborated with friends and as soon as she walked in the door I knew and sent her to her bed. I had to watch her all night making sure she wasn't sick and kept her on her side. I said to her in the morning if she was going to keep drinking I would not give her pocket money and I would put it in savings for her. I was not giving her pocket money to buy drink.

*Relationship with foster children*

76. My relationships with my foster children was just like any other family. Just a normal, everyday family. They always knew that they could come and talk to me about anything. I just left them to call me whatever they wanted to call me. Most of them called me [FLQ], but [REDACTED] would sometimes call me mum. When I got a birthday card they would all write mum on it. [FDL] and [REDACTED] would write to mum and dad on cards as well. Now and again they would slip up and call me mum. I wasn't their mum, but I just left them to call me whatever they wanted.
77. [FDL] would speak to me a lot about her past because that bothered her. We would speak about her mum. She would tell me what life was like when she stayed with her mum. I knew a lot from the social work, but she would tell me what it was like for her. Some of the stuff she says in her statement about my house is like what she would tell me it was like at her mum's house. It is like she has just changed her mum's name to mine.



78. I was always conscious that there were so many of them and I would always make sure we had time if they ever needed to speak with me one to one. If there was anything that they didn't like about me I would always tell them to speak to their social worker about it. I was not perfect. I would say to them, if you want to moan about me, do it, as there are things you do that I don't like, so I know there will be things that I do that you don't like. I always made sure they were aware of that.
79. **FLR** was just really there as my husband. He didn't take part in the day to day stuff with the kids. He would maybe give them a row if they were jumping around or carrying on, but that was about it. Social work called him the quiet man. He just took everything in his stride. He is a simple person. He did work some of the time doing scaffolding and helped me out with the housework. He was just happy chilling with the kids when they were around.
80. **FLR** had a severe stroke just before we stopped fostering. He couldn't really remember the girls and he would get mixed up with all their names. He just kind of sat there and I had to help him build back his memory by using computer games that train your brain and stuff like that. I remember when he had the stroke and my first worry was for the kids and who would be with them if I had to go to hospital. I called my mum straight away and she said why are you calling me, call an ambulance.
81. The first week he was in intensive care I stayed with him at the hospital. I think one of the girls went to my brother's and my mum took the other three. I really can't remember.

*Contact with family*

82. My mum and dad would babysit my foster children, but it was always my mum and dad together. I know **FDL** is saying it was just my dad that watched them, but that is not true. It was always drummed into us when we were training to be foster parents, that it had to be two people with the children to protect the children and to protect us. I was really strict about that.

83. Right away at the very beginning of fostering I got someone to babysit for us as we were going to my niece's twenty first birthday party. Even then I made sure that there was not just one person on their own with them. You were always made aware of that. It is a reality that the children could say something was done to them. We were told about the possibility of sexual allegations from the beginning.
84. It was a very rare occasion my mum and dad would babysit for us. I didn't go out much at all. My life was the children. Me and my mum were together a lot as we got the caravan and we would go there with the girls. My dad did come to the caravan a few times, but that was rare. When he did come [FDL] was the first one to run out to him, so I don't know why she is saying she is scared of him.
85. The girls and [redacted] would call my parents granny and grandad. That's why it was an absolute shock what [FDL] was saying about my dad. All of the girls always wanted to stay at my parent's house. They would fight over who was staying over. Sometimes [redacted] would stay over, so she could walk to school with [redacted] in the morning.

*Contact with natural Family*

86. The social work told me what contact the children would have with their natural family when they came to live with us. This was in their care plan. [FDL] and [redacted]'s mum wasn't in with the contact plan at first, it was just their gran. Apparently their mum wasn't allowed to come near the gran's while the girls were there. I think there was an incident where their mum was going to their gran's when she shouldn't have been and that might be why contact was changed for the gran. I wasn't always told why when things changed.
87. Social work initially allowed [FDL] and [redacted] contact with their gran once a fortnight and then that changed to once a month. There was a big planning meeting and they wanted to change it to every three months. They must have had their reasons. I think it was because of the gran's behaviour.

88. I don't know if this is true or not but the gran apparently had said that she had cancer and the social work didn't believe her. They spoke to me and said they did not want FDL and [REDACTED] to know about it until they found out if it was true, but the gran then told the girls herself. The girls were angry at me for not telling them before, but I told them social work just wanted to find out all the facts first. Initially I still had the gran around in-between the three month visits, as I didn't understand why they had changed it. Social work knew about that.
89. We didn't have to get on with the foster children's parents, but we had to show them respect. I might not have liked what was happening, but it was not my place to judge. I interacted a lot with all of my foster children's parents. I had them at my house a lot. I felt if the children saw we were getting along it made it easier for them. Sometimes the children felt if they showed any loyalty to me, it was disrespectful to their parents. It was better to get along for the sake of the children.
90. I was just left to manage all of the parent contact when it came to FDL and [REDACTED], but I think it should have been Simon and Janine's responsibility. They would call me and say we can't arrange contact this week because we don't have the staff and I would have to do it as I felt bad for the kids. I said they couldn't let them down when it had already been arranged. I would then take them to the visit myself and pick them up when it finished.
91. When it came to sibling contact FDL and [REDACTED] only saw their brother [REDACTED] about three times the first four years they were with me. Social work would take them to McDonalds to meet him. That was their favourite place to take the children. I saw it happen a lot that sibling contact wasn't much. I think they were trying to adopt [REDACTED] to another family. I did say to the social work that it was ridiculous. They had a big department to sort it all out. I was quite vocal and that's how it would be that I ended up just doing the contact myself.
92. I had FDL and [REDACTED]'s mum at a few events at our house. I also invited her down to the caravan one weekend for a day. I obviously checked it was all ok with social work first.

93. When it came to [REDACTED] she was a very spoiled little girl. She would not do anything her mum told her. She was very stubborn and would swear at her mum. When they first started contact it was awful. I said to the social work it wasn't working and I would go one day with her. When I did, it was great. Social work then felt the contact was a lot better with her mum when I was there. Her mum took me aside and said she hated me at first and thought I would be snobby, but we got on great. If we bumped into her out and about we would chat and go for a cup of tea. I think people had misconceptions of foster parents, but I had been brought up around the same area as most of their parents so understood them.

*Visitors*

94. The girls always had one to one time with their social workers and they knew they could do that. Every time social work visited, they would have that time on their own. Their social workers usually saw them once a week. Sometimes it could be once a fortnight if they were off sick or whatever.
95. To start with my link worker saw me once a week, but then as my level of experience grew that was once a fortnight. Every now and again there would be someone at your door and it was my link worker or one of the girl's social workers. They would just pop in unannounced. You were told quite clearly that could happen when you signed up. One of the social workers lived closed by and she would pop in all the time. It was always when I was trying to put the dinner out. It was normally just for five minutes. FDL and [REDACTED]'s last social worker, Eddie never just popped in, but Janine did a lot.
96. My link worker's boss would come to my house too, maybe once a month or so to check the house. Because I had four children with three social workers and my own social worker, there was never a week that went past when a social worker wasn't at my house. They were in my house more than I wanted them to be. They always came at the most stupid times.

*Review of Care/placement*

97. I attended children's panels for all of the children I fostered. I had an opportunity to speak at these and I would raise concerns, in particular that I had with FDL and . It was not just about their mental health, but I had concerns regarding their cleanliness too. The girls would be present when I said these things. I was always open with the older ones if I was going to speak about something at a meeting. I would also always leave the room to let them speak without me there if they wanted to.
98. They got forms to fill out before we went to panels and I had big white envelopes for them to put them in. They would never use them though and they would come down to me and ask if what they had written looked ok. Or they would just write they were fine and I would have to encourage them to write more. I said that the forms were theirs and I did not need to see them. It was called 'Your Say' I think. That was for all of them and I had paperwork to fill out before hearings too.
99. We also had monthly meetings at the social work department, where I raised concerns about FDL and . In general the social work were great with me, but when it came to FDL and I don't think things were dealt with properly. They didn't do their job right for them at all.
100. After my husband had his stroke the hospital had to come and inspect our house. The girls were still with us then. They made sure the house was suitable for FLR to come back to. I just had to get on with it myself when FLR came home. Social work did speak to me about continuing fostering, whilst I was caring for FLR too. I told them if they were my natural children, I wouldn't be able to send them away, so I wasn't sending my foster children away. They were my family. Every single one of their social workers came and asked how I would cope, but I just said that I had family support and I would. Social work told me their opinion first and asked me what I wanted to do. They told me they thought I could do it and they were there if I needed them.

*Records*

101. I was asked to keep a diary while fostering and we always got a new one every year. Every day I would give a quick rundown of what my day had been like. I would put things in it like [REDACTED] having a temper tantrum. It was just a day to day thing and I only had one diary for all the children. We also had a wee medical book that we put medical things in. It was just a suggestion to us to record things, so we could refer to it and not forget.
102. My link worker would come out and I would read things to him from my diary. I would read what I thought he needed to know. I feel terrible because it was mainly things about FDL [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. It would just be things like, FDL [REDACTED] refused to have a shower today and their rooms were not cleaned again. I would relay this to my link worker Simon when he visited. It was more of an incident book, as opposed to general day to day things.
103. I shredded all the diaries after FDL [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] left. I shredded all of my family photographs as well because FDL [REDACTED] was in most of them. Anything that FDL [REDACTED] was in, I shredded. It was an emotional response to what FDL [REDACTED] was saying about my dad. I was angry. I had even got a professional photographer in Turkey to take pictures of all the girls and because FDL [REDACTED] was in them, I destroyed them. I deleted everything from my phone and laptop as well. I regretted it when all this came up with the Inquiry, as I could have provided the Inquiry with a bag of photographs of them all happy. Me and FDL [REDACTED] used to do silly faces in the photographs and things like that.
104. I knew FDL [REDACTED] had a diary. I have always known because the others told me straight away. The other girls said she was writing bad stuff about me in it. I said that was her prerogative. As far as I was concerned I never saw any major problems at the time. I just thought it was moany things and silly gripes, like I never let her stay out late. I never read her diary.
105. When FDL [REDACTED] left the social work called me and said she had left her diary and they wanted to come and get it. [REDACTED] was with me when I got it from her room and she

said asked if I was going to read it and I said no. I wouldn't read any of their diaries. It was left on the table until the social work came and no one else was allowed to read it either. Eddie was their social worker by then. I think he had been their social worker for about two years by the time they left.

106. I don't know any other way that foster parents can record things. In a week thirty or forty things could happen. It is hard to remember and record all of that.

#### *Moving Placement*

107. When it came to the emergency foster children leaving my care, social work would just call me and say they were coming to pick them up. It could be half an hour's notice, but mostly it was the day before. They would come and get the child and then about an hour later they'd be at my door with another child. I think about, fifty to a hundred children past through my door.

#### *Leaving the Care System*

108. Not long before FDL and [REDACTED] left us we had booked a cabin to see in the New Year. I had been cooking all day on the 30<sup>th</sup> December for everyone and FDL went in a huff about something after speaking with my dad. I asked her what was the matter and she said it was my dad getting her into trouble. I said she wasn't getting into any trouble. Apparently when I then went away, FDL said to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], that we didn't know how evil she could be, but we would soon find out. I didn't know this at the time, but when we got home [REDACTED] told me and [REDACTED] told my mum.
109. The day FDL left she never came home from school. I was wondering where she was and asked the other girls, but they didn't know. I looked out of the window and saw all of their social workers coming in. They all piled in and said there had been an allegation made and they were coming to take all the kids away. I was shocked and I did not understand what they meant. I panicked as I thought it was against FLR at first.

110. They spoke with me alone initially and said [FDL] had made sexual allegations against my dad. The kids were then told and they were hysterical, as they didn't want to leave. They were told that allegations had been made and they all knew it was [FDL] as she was the only one not there. [ ] was cuddling into me saying I am not going. I told her not to worry and that they could come back when it was all sorted out. That's what I thought at the time. She wasn't far off sixteen, so I said to her she could also come back if she wanted to and my door was always open for her. That seemed to calm her down.
111. [ ] said she was sixteen already and wasn't going anywhere and that [FDL] was probably lying. She was really angry. They never told us the full details of what [FDL] had said at this point, just that it was sexual. When [ ] said she wasn't going [ ] started saying again that she wasn't going either. Eventually [ ] and [ ] were taken away. [ ] wasn't as social work said they couldn't force her given her age.
112. I did not understand why they had to take the kids out of my house, as the allegations were against my dad. They said it was because of how close we all were. I was really upset. I told them they knew I would protect the girls. When they took them out of my house they also took [ ] out of my mum's house. [ ] was fighting too saying [FDL] was lying and she wasn't moving because of her. Social work left [ ] with my mum for a few days and then eventually went back to take her away as well. After that [ ] said my dad touched her too.
113. [ ] left when she moved in with her boyfriend at sixteen. Social work just said they couldn't stop her as she was sixteen. I was a bit annoyed about that as I really didn't like him. Her and [ ] more or less tossed the social work out their lives as soon as they could. They said I was their mum and they didn't need social work. I then went through a lot with [ ] as she fell pregnant young and her partner was abusive. She then met someone else and moved to the Isle of Man and I didn't see her a lot, but we still kept in contact.



114. [REDACTED] stayed with me until she was twenty two, twenty three. She then moved in with her girlfriend. I got financial support for [REDACTED] until she was eighteen, but I supported her after that. She was my daughter. She is getting married in [REDACTED] and [FLR] is giving her away.
115. When [FDL], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were taking off me, [REDACTED] stayed. I just retired from fostering after that. In all truthiness the social work probably wanted us to stop fostering anyway and said so indirectly. I still had the argument with them that it shouldn't affect me when it was about my dad. I just couldn't get it clear in my head. I didn't realise the extent of what [FDL] was saying then. I was totally heartbroken and in no fit state to be fostering anyway.
116. [REDACTED] still stayed with me until about two years ago and [REDACTED] was still coming to see me as well. [REDACTED] moved into supported accommodation, but she absolutely hated it and wanted to come back with me. I had moved by then and there wasn't any space for her at the new house. She said she wished she hadn't moved out. She has now moved in with her boyfriend and is doing fantastic and working full time.
117. They are all just the same to me now as they were away back then. They are my daughters. [REDACTED] and [FDL] would still be too if all of this hadn't happened.

*Contact after foster care*

118. [REDACTED] and I kept in touch online after she left. She did eventually say her new foster parents said she probably shouldn't be speaking to me and I said that was ok.
119. One time me and my mum had gone away on a coach somewhere and we heard someone shouting my name. It was [REDACTED] and she ran up to me and was crying asking to come home with me. She said [FDL] was there too, but she had ran away or something. [REDACTED] said she hated [FDL] and that [FDL] had told them all to say the same about my dad and they would all get money off the social work. By this time my dad was dead, so I saw no point in getting upset about it.

120. Social work had to come and speak to me after [REDACTED] left as she was telling the school she was going to commit suicide if they didn't take her back to my house. I had paid for her to go to New York with the school and it was when she was coming back. I had to sit with [REDACTED] and speak to her about it and tell her she couldn't come back to stay with me. Even though I wasn't a foster carer anymore the social work were still coming to me for help. This went on for months. It was really confusing.
121. When my dad's funeral was coming up the social work called and asked if [REDACTED] could come and I said of course she could, but I wanted her to sit up front with the family. Social work said she would have to sit up the back with them and I said absolutely not. People would be wondering why my family was not all sitting together. I said I was sorry, she couldn't come unless she sat with the family and a social worker could be there too if they wanted. She didn't come and ran away that day. She turned up at my mum's house. I felt terrible. She loved her grandad.
122. Another time me, [REDACTED] and my mum were up at the local Asda shopping. I walked in and saw FDL [REDACTED] at the door with some boy in her school uniform. We walked into the shop. I was shaking like a leaf. We turned around and she had left the shop. We carried on with our shopping. As we were leaving FDL [REDACTED] was still standing outside. We walked over to our car and she started walking at our backs. [REDACTED] kept looking around and said she wanted to say something to her, but I said no, don't say a word. As we were driving away FDL [REDACTED] was still standing there pulling faces at us.
123. After my dad passed away FDL [REDACTED] was going around telling everyone that she killed him. That really upset me. Why could she not just leave it alone? I don't know why she had to keep saying that to people. She didn't care how we felt that she was telling everyone she was glad she had killed him.

### *Complaints*

124. When FDL [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] left the social work came to speak with me about some of the things FDL [REDACTED] had been saying to them. Apparently she had said that I had thrown [REDACTED] out the back garden once with no clothes on and locked her out. The social work spoke

to [REDACTED] and she said it never happened. That was all I was aware of about me until now.

### **Convictions**

125. I have no previous criminal convictions for anything at all.

### **Allegations of Abuse**

#### *Awareness of Abuse*

126. I was made aware of children who had suffered abuse a lot of years ago, but not in relation to us. A wee girl was with us who always wanted to sit on [REDACTED] FLR knee and we had been trained about that. That wasn't allowed. I spoke with the social work and they already knew about it. I would just distract her and try not to push her away. That's the type of things I would record in my diary.

#### *Reporting of Abuse*

127. A wee girl called [REDACTED], who lived with me, also made an allegation against my dad. She was thirteen at the time I think. I caught her stealing cigarettes from my packet and grounded her. She then said she was going to say something that she knew would hurt me and then said that my dad had touched her. I called the social work straight away and they sent someone out. I never said another word to her until social work came out. I just walked away from her downstairs when she said it. When she came downstairs I tried to keep things as normal as possible. Her sister [REDACTED] was there at the time too.
128. Social work came and spoke with her alone and then said they were going away. I said they had to take [REDACTED] with them, but they said they didn't think there was any reason for her not to be with me. I said that I did think there was a reason and to take

her away. I wasn't having her saying that about my dad. They told me I had to be professional. I was at a loss. I was so angry they wouldn't take her with them when she was saying things like that.

129. Eventually I found out that she said she was sitting in my house with her sister, in the livingroom and I went into the kitchen to make a cup of tea. My dad was there and she said he touched her down below. Her sister [REDACTED] said she was sitting there too and he did not touch [REDACTED], so that is why social work left her with me. The sisters kept fighting about it after that, so [REDACTED] was eventually moved and [REDACTED] stayed.

*Allegations of Abuse for which there has been no Criminal Conviction*

130. I am aware that [REDACTED] FDL has made allegations of sexual abuse against my dad when she was living with him and my mum. I cannot answer anything about that as I wasn't there. I do have my opinion on it. It was only made known to me the day she left, when she didn't come home from school.

*Reporting to Police/Criminal Proceedings*

131. I called the police when [REDACTED] made that allegation against my dad. I wanted to make sure all of my bases were covered and I had done everything I had to do. The police came and interviewed all of the kids. [REDACTED] FDL and [REDACTED] were going absolutely crazy saying it was a lie and [REDACTED] just wanted attention. The police also spoke with my dad and nothing came of it. That was the end of it.
132. [REDACTED] also told the police at a later date what [REDACTED] FDL said before she made the allegations against my dad. [REDACTED] had heard [REDACTED] FDL saying, when we all went away to the cabin for New Year, that we didn't know how evil she could be but we soon would.
133. My mum has also recently been asked to go as a witness for the social work, against [REDACTED] FDL My mum is trying to get the police statements for the incident with [REDACTED] to support that [REDACTED] FDL was angry when lies were being told about her grandad.

*Prior Statements*

134. I was angry about the police not speaking to me when [FDL] made allegations against my dad. Why did they not ask me everything the Inquiry are asking me now? Why did they not ask me if I saw any signs? I thought they would have, but maybe it was because my dad passed away soon after.
135. Social work did come out and speak to me about everything [FDL] had been saying, but it wasn't a lot against me. It wasn't as much as what the Inquiry have given me notice of. They just told me about what she had said and that they had spoken to all of our other children, who all said it didn't happen. That was the last I heard of it.

*Specific Allegations Against that have been made to the Inquiry*

136. [FDL] says in her statement to the Inquiry *'Right from the start at [FLQ]'s we got takeaway meals, Chinese food and "chippies" for dinner. We used to sit on the floor in the living room to eat. I don't think we were allowed to eat on the couch. There wasn't enough room for all of us to sit on the couch anyway.'*
137. It is possible some sat on the floor and some sat on the couch. I sat on the floor myself to eat my dinner sometimes. When we moved to [REDACTED] we had a big diningroom table. I am not saying we didn't get Chinese, Chip Shop or McDonalds food, but absolutely not every night. It was a Friday night and sometimes a Sunday later on after we got back from the caravan. Also if I had a meeting late in the afternoon with social work and got home late, maybe then. But day to day life, absolutely not.
138. [FDL] then goes on to say *'When we moved to Colston, [REDACTED] and I would be sent to McDonalds four or five times a week...All the kids would get a Happy Meal... [FLQ] always got a Chinese, so we were sent there too... [FLQ] would maybe cook once or twice a week. She'd make things like mince and tatties or chips and macaroni. It was quite nice.'*

139. Absolutely not. I am not saying we didn't get takeaways, but nothing like that. The bit about her and [REDACTED] walking around for McDonalds, that's true. It was just around the corner and they were older when we moved to [REDACTED]. As for them getting happy meals all the time, that is not true. They would tell me what they wanted and it would be Big Macs. They actually preferred Chinese and loved chicken fried rice. They also tried Indian food when I got it, as they had never tried that before.
140. FDL says *'The dog used to go for spa days, get fancy hairdos and go out to a sort of day centre. It was so spoilt and it wasn't a nice dog. I hated it. We weren't getting a proper dinner and this dog was being treated like that. I feel it's important to mention this. Getting a Happy Meal for my dinner four or five times a week went on for years. I was still getting a Happy Meal for my dinner when I was sixteen. I was so slim and completely malnourished.'*
141. That's absolute rubbish. Yes my dog went to get washed and cut every four weeks. It was a Bichon Frise. They have to be brushed and washed regularly because of their coat. We used to joke and say it was going for a doggy spa, but it was just a woman who came in her van and sat outside the house. She would give it a bath and it would get it's wee scent on and come back in with a ribbon in its hair.
142. As for feeding the dog. They used to steal my dog's food. My dogs always got brown rice, with chicken and vegetables. I used to steam that for them. The girls were always in and out the kitchen. They stole it for a laugh when I finished steaming it. They would just steal a little bit when they were walking past and it was cooling down. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was the worst for it. My mum's dogs got the same food. They say it is better for their stomach.
143. The girls used to ask if they could have the same as what the dogs had to eat and I said I would make it for them if they wanted. I made everything fresh. I made lasagne and even chicken nuggets fresh. I would make chicken nuggets from a breast of chicken. I chopped it up. Not because I was health conscious, that's just what I did. I would make spaghetti bolognaise and mince and potatoes. FLR would make his macaroni cheese because he was the best at that.

144. FDL then says *'After dinner, I had to do all the dishes and clean the entire kitchen. That was mine and [REDACTED]'s job. I did the washings on a Sunday. [REDACTED] had to do the dining room. This was when we were in the new house in Colston. I think we were too young in the other house. She made the older girls do it there. She did a rota for us at first. She had it on the fridge and we would get stars if we did the jobs properly. She said we would get pocket money, but even although we had spent hours scrubbing the kitchen, she would find one tiny thing wrong so she didn't have to give us money... Whenever we didn't do the cleaning to her standard, she would make us do it again, or shout at us and send us to bed.'*
145. Absolutely not. The stars were for [REDACTED]. We had to put a lot of systems in place for [REDACTED] because of her behaviour. We did that along with social work. The biggest majority of the time [REDACTED] would just brush the floor as she was young. She would get a star as we were trying to teach her and she got a wee present at the end of the week. The stars weren't for the big ones. We did have a rota for who was doing what, but the jobs weren't hard. It was to open the dishwasher, put the dishes in it and empty it. They also had to keep their rooms clean. I had to clean their rooms as well.
146. One time I cleaned out under FDL's bed and I pulled out food with maggots on it. That was a big thing in my house with FDL and [REDACTED]. Their cleanliness. I constantly had to go in and tell them to put their things away and tidy their rooms. Sometimes if they were at school I would go in and pick things up and put them in their drawers. In FDL's drawers there would be used sanitary towels and bits of food. If she was eating something she would just open the drawer and put it in there. [REDACTED] was the same. She would have dirty clothes in her drawers and she hid pants in the cistern of my toilet.
147. Another time FDL wiped faeces on the wall of the garage we had just done up for her. She said it wasn't her and I couldn't prove who did it. This was the type of thing I was constantly bringing up to social work. If I didn't say to FDL and [REDACTED] to go for a shower they wouldn't. This was all the way through their time with me and it got worse as they got older.

148. FDL says FLR *could be the same as FLQ when he was sober. He would shout all the time. It was mine and [REDACTED]'s job to do the dishes and clean up the kitchen every single night, and FLR was basically in charge of that. He'd shout at us if he thought we hadn't done it right.'*
149. Nope. FLR was easy going and took nothing to do with it. He never really took anything to do with discipline. He was that quiet though, if he did say something, they knew they had gone too far. It was few and far between when he did though. FLR is not a shouter. Even if we argued he doesn't shout. He is dead laid back. Absolutely no way. There is no way.
150. FDL goes on to say *'There was an incident after school one day when I was doing my National 5s. I had to do a report for biology and all my papers were lying on the floor in my room. FLQ came in and was shouting, "Look at this mess". She was drunk and I think she was angry because she didn't like me studying. She then grabbed all of my papers, and I must have had a surge of adrenalin because I stood up to her. I had never stood up to her before...She came into my face and I was obviously scared, but I was taller than her so I was towering over her...She spat on my face at that point because she said that I'd spat on her when I was shouting back at her. I hadn't. Her spittle landed on my face, and I then pushed her out of my room.'*
151. I remember that. I remember the whole thing. I had been telling FDL to tidy her room. It was after school. She had come home and her and [REDACTED] were in her room.
152. I went up to the room and said I had told her to tidy her room and she said she would do it later. I told her if she didn't do it now, I would take all the rubbish on the floor and put it in a black bin bag. She got up and said I wouldn't touch her stuff and she was swearing at me. I said she wasn't to dare speak to me like that and she said she could do what she wanted, I wasn't her mother. She then got up in my face and spat in it. I just looked at [REDACTED] and walked out the room. I sat in the livingroom for a while. I was so angry. I called the social work and spoke to my link worker. I also wrote it in my diary. [REDACTED] was gobsmacked. I was shocked too. FDL just sprung up from the bed right up to where I was standing and spat in my face.



153. Simon never said a lot about it. He just told me to record it and write down exactly what had happened. I told him to speak to [REDACTED]. The next day I was back on [REDACTED]'s case again to tidy up her room. To me it was done and we were back to normal. Weeks later we did speak about it and she said she was sorry for spitting on me. She said that she was just angry, as she thought I was going to put all her stuff in the bin. I told her she knew I would never have done that. I would have put it in bin bags, but not in the bin. There is no way I would have thrown everything out. I told her I was getting tired of telling her to tidy her room and she shouldn't have sprung up on me like that. She said she was just frustrated with school work and I told her to forget about it, it was done now.
154. [REDACTED] also says [REDACTED] *ended up ripping my papers and I lost quite a lot of work.*'
155. No. I didn't even touch her papers. There were papers under my feet, as they were all over her floor. I was maybe standing on some of them. I would never have thrown out her study work. I went to too many lengths to help her to study, to then just throw it all away.
156. [REDACTED] says [REDACTED] *didn't encourage us to wash. This went on throughout my time in her care. I think we had a bath about once a week.*'
157. No. I even put in a Jacuzzi bath in [REDACTED] with lights in it. Every single night it was a fight because [REDACTED] was in it. They all wanted a turn. There was a lock on the bathroom door.
158. [REDACTED] also says *'I got nits again...we all got them because it wasn't treated. Even when I would ask [REDACTED] to get us some sort of treatment, she'd just put it off or she'd get conditioner and tell [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] to deal with it. I think it was about a year before it completely cleared up. It was horrible. I used to tear bits of my hair out.'*
159. I read that and that she got bullied because of it. They did all get nits. They had hair down to their waists. I took them to the chemist and got the solution stuff and did all their hairs when I found out. I also got the stuff you put on afterwards to help keep the

nits away. I made them all tie their hair up. The school advised that. [REDACTED] was bad for letting hers down. A week later one of them was scratching again, so off I went to the chemist again for the solution.

160. They just kept coming back, so I called the doctors and they suggested I maybe try a different solution, as the nits might be getting used to the same product. I just kept going at it and they maybe had them on and off for about three months. It wasn't a year. I even got my mum to help and do the combing at the caravan once, as I was worried I was not doing it right and missing some. I did have bad eyesight. They just suddenly went away and they never got them again.
161. The school was rife with nits at the time. They were always calling me to say someone else had them. I even went to the hairdressers once and I had them. I was mortified. I am sorry, but they were treated and they did not have nits for a year.
162. *FDL [REDACTED] then goes on to say [REDACTED] has Asperger's, but we didn't know that at the time. She had a whole range of unusual body language. Her neck would go forward when she was speaking to you. The way she moved and acted when she was speaking was obviously different from me and [REDACTED]. I think it's embarrassing that she was never diagnosed while she was in FLQ [REDACTED]'s care.'*
163. I was absolutely disgusted when I read that. I thought *FDL [REDACTED]* was talking about [REDACTED] because she did had behavioural problems. Basically she just kicked up a fuss if she didn't get what she wanted. There was nothing else wrong with her. I am sure if she had Asperger's someone would have picked that up. [REDACTED] spoke perfectly normal to me.
164. [REDACTED] was just a spoiled wee lassie who would go in a huff if she didn't get what she wanted. I did have to restrain her a few times. I was given training on that. She head-butted me one time and burst my mouth. She would throw things and take it out on the other ones, so we would have to keep her close from behind and put our arms around her. We were taught to do that.

165. The only children I had with mental health problems were FDL and █████, but they were still normal children day to day. There were no medical conditions. I would like to know if this has been confirmed by a doctor. I never saw any signs of it with all of the children I fostered.
166. FDL said *'I don't remember brushing my teeth as a young child at FLQ's. They didn't like you brushing your teeth.'*
167. I can assure you they did brush their teeth as our mirror would tell you so. Every single day after I dropped them all off at school and came back to the toilet there was splashes all up my mirror and sink from them rinsing out. They brushed their teeth every day. I had to clean my sink every day, so I know that.
168. FDL says in relation to a children's panel *'My gran shouted at FLQ one time, "You've got a cheek to call anybody dirty".'*
169. Absolutely not true. FDL's mum and gran were in my house a lot. They would have brought that up a long time ago if I was supposed to be filthy. I am not saying there wasn't school bags lying around like any other house, but my house was definitely not filthy. The gran never spoke to me like that either. If she had she would never have been allowed in my house.
170. The only time I didn't get on with FDL and █████'s gran was when she would call at the weekends, really drunk, wanting to speak to the girls. I would say I am sorry but you are not speaking to them and she would say she would come down to the caravan. I told her I would call the police if she did. She would call me the next day and apologise. I would say to her it was her prerogative to drink in her own house, but not to call me when she was and ask to speak with the girls, as it was not going to happen. That was our only conflict.
171. FDL also said in relation to contact with her gran *'I don't know the full ins and outs, but she was saying things like our mental health wasn't coping with it. FLQ was*

*another one who was able to manipulate me and [REDACTED] into saying what she wanted. I don't know who made the decision to cut the contact.'*

172. It was the social work department that made that decision to cut the contact with their gran. I think a lot of it was to do with the girls mental health issues. FDL could get quite deep with me and tell me a lot, but I don't know what the girls discussions were with the social work. They would only tell me if it was something dangerous. The gran did annoy me with the drunken calls, but as far as I was aware the contact with her was great.
173. FDL then says *'We started to get access with my mum when I was about twelve, and the only reason that happened was because we accidentally walked into the wrong panel room and my mum was there.'*
174. No. That's not true. Her mum was at a panel once when we were there, social work told us and we had to wait until her mum left. That is not how contact was restarted. As far as I was aware it was because she was doing better and not drinking as much. They decided to have a trial to see how contact would go. The girls knew their mum, but they didn't really know her as they had not seen her much after going into care. It wasn't a lot of contact at first, but then everything started to go really well. Social work did ask me how it was going and I would tell the truth. They did listen to me, but I never got to make any decisions about contact.
175. Regarding contact with FDL's dad in prison FDL says *'The first time was fine. FLQ decided that my dad had been rude or something like that the second time, and then she manipulated the situation so that we didn't see him again. I had done a girl's hair in braids and FLQ said to me, "It's ugly and fucking horrible". I got really upset and started crying... She spun the story that I was upset because I had seen my dad and we weren't allowed to see him again after that.'*
176. No, absolutely not. Two totally different scenarios. When they went to see their dad they asked me to go with them. I said it wasn't up to me, but I spoke with Janine who said that it was a good idea for me to go. The first visit went really well. Me and Janine

just sat back and their dad was friendly and they all spoke. Then we went again and their dad was being really funny with them. Janine said she felt like he didn't want them to be there. He wasn't talking to them and was looking around a lot.

177. Janine contacted the prison to see if they could see him again and he said no. She tried a couple of times, but he rejected the contact. We told the girls the truth and that's why FDL was crying. It was nothing to do with anyone's hair. I told them he was just maybe struggling and didn't want them to see him in prison. I thought he was an alright guy. He wasn't out of prison long after that and he got put back in again for murder.
178. FDL says *'The only thing FLQ was strict on was bedtime. We went to bed at seven o'clock... What FLQ loved to do to discipline you was send you to bed really early. We'd be sent to bed at twelve o'clock in the afternoon, and we had to stay there lying in bed the whole day with nothing to do. She would come in and check to make sure we were still lying in bed.'*
179. Not true. That would not be a sanction or punishment for FDL. Whatever you want to call it. We never had to send them to their bed as they were always in their bedrooms anyway. They would sit and talk to their friends on these chat things. Their lights were out at eleven o'clock. It would never be a punishment to send them to their beds early if they were already in there. Especially for FDL. If I had to do anything to discipline FDL it would be taking away her phone or iPad.
180. FDL then says *'Another thing FLQ liked to do was throw us outside as a punishment. She did that to me one time when I'd just had a shower and only had a towel round me. It was winter time and she put me out and locked the door. I was out for about ten minutes. Every one of us got thrown outside at some point.'*
181. Absolutely not. I racked my brain about this because the social work mentioned it too and there was an incident with ██████, where I shouted her in for dinner and she said no. She refused to come in a few times, so I said that was fine and I shut the door. I knew if I did that she would come running in and that's exactly what she did. There was certainly no incidence like what FDL is saying. The size of her anyway. She was

a big, tall lassie. There was no way I could have thrown her outside. There was also no way she would have been downstairs in my house with a towel on. That wasn't allowed. If they had been in a shower they were made to get dressed into pyjamas or clothes before coming out the bathroom.

182. FDL also goes on to say *'I remember being put out of the caravan when she was having a tantrum. FLQ put her out in the rain, wearing just her pyjamas, until she stopped screaming.'* No, didn't happen.
183. FDL says *'FLQ used to shout and swear at us a lot when we were young. She was abusive when she shouted, but I can't remember all the things she used to say. It's a bit blurry. She got more and more verbally abusive towards us as time went on. She would be really horrible to us. She would call me and my sister "spastics".'*
184. Absolutely not. That is not a word I would use. I have cousins who have disabled children. I would never use that word. The person who used that word was FDL FDL She would constantly call "a spastic". She would call her that and say it was because of the way she was acting and I would absolutely crack up about it.
185. FDL goes on to say *'She picked on a lot because she behaved differently from me and . She would call her a "mongo", a "spastic" and a "weirdo".'*
186. No. I don't even swear. I never once in my life swore in front of those children. I never even swore in front of my parents. I was not brought up like that. Even if I was with my mum now and I swore, she would not believe it. When I heard the girls swearing I did not like it. I would consider that to be bullying if someone was talking to a child like that.
187. FDL says *'FLQ made me and go into the back garden and batter one time because she had hit back. FLR was at the pub. I wasn't hitting her at first. I was just sort of pulling her about and FLQ shouted at me and said she was going to batter me if I didn't hit her. I then started battering and she was*

*screaming. This went on for about ten minutes. I think this happened around a year before I left.'*

188. That actually never happened. It never happened. There was an incident that I remember clearly. FDL and [REDACTED] were continuously fighting and jokingly I said if the two of them did not stop fighting I would put them out the back. That was it. I was laughing when I said it. Sometimes I would have to raise my voice to be heard in our house. That incident absolutely never happened. No way.
189. They knew my views on bullying. I was bullied when I was younger and it is something I never tolerated. I had a lot of arguments and disagreements to deal with, but I had to deal with FDL for bullying. Even though [REDACTED] was older than her, FDL bullied her and [REDACTED]. She did it to an extent with [REDACTED], but [REDACTED] would then lose the head and fight back. I would not tolerate that happening to anyone, even to this day. If it happened at school with them I was right up to the school too.
190. If there was bullying in the house I would give them into trouble. It would depend what one it was and what had happened. It didn't have to be physical, it could be picking on someone by saying something that they knew would frighten them. To me that's bullying because you are only doing it to that person because you know they are frightened and they will not do anything back.
191. If they didn't stop it I would ground them or take away their iPads. A lot of the time it happened when I didn't see it. I had to then say I couldn't really punish them as I didn't know who had done what first. The biggest majority of time I had to just defuse the situation that was going on, but it wasn't something that happened all the time. They did argue the way sisters do, but there was nothing that I would call abuse.
192. FDL says *'When my brother [REDACTED] came to stay with us, he had a lot of behavioural issues and FLQ would slap him or drag him up the stairs when he misbehaved. I remember [REDACTED] would be screaming.'*

193. No. Absolutely not. I have never put my hands on any child in my life. Never. He did have tantrums, but when he did I just let him ride it out and ignored him. Like I did with [REDACTED]. If you tried to interact with them it just made it worse. I never had to restrain [REDACTED]. If I told him to calm down he would. I never had to drag him up the stairs either and I certainly never slapped him.
194. FDL [REDACTED] then says 'FLQ [REDACTED] found out [REDACTED] was smoking and she made her eat cigarettes as a punishment. [REDACTED] was crying and the rest of us were in the house watching this.'
195. No. Absolutely not. I never caught any of my kids smoking in my house. I certainly wouldn't have made them eat cigarettes. I don't remember catching any of them smoking. Just [REDACTED] drinking. I would have known if they were smoking in my house right away because I would have smelt it. We didn't smoke in the house because the kids were there. We smoked outside.
196. FDL [REDACTED] says FLQ [REDACTED] bought a caravan in Saltcoats and we went there every weekend. We had no choice in the matter. We never went anywhere else on holiday.'
197. No. Before the caravan we went to Spain and abroad to other places. Then after that two week holiday at the caravan, when they all loved it, we bought a caravan and went there every weekend. FDL [REDACTED] loved it there. I don't know why she is saying this. She was always away swimming and taking part in things.
198. FDL [REDACTED] also says 'All the children would go down to the complex and it would be mine and [REDACTED]'s responsibility to oversee the younger ones... Even at the caravan, it was mine and [REDACTED]'s job to wash up the dishes and clean the kitchen every night.'
199. FDL [REDACTED] absolutely hated [REDACTED] and would never have taken her down to the complex. Every now and again [REDACTED] would take the two younger girls down. [REDACTED] had a wee friend next door and [REDACTED] would take her down too, if her gran wasn't going. FDL [REDACTED] might have walked down with them, but she was never asked to take them. She



would go in a huff and would not be happy if we did. Some of the time she wasn't even going down with [REDACTED], she was going off to other caravans to get her own pals.

200. The girls knew everyone at the caravan park. All the staff knew them because we were there all the time. It wasn't a big caravan park. My brother and his wife would always be there too and they went to the entertainment at night. I knew that my brother would be there for them. The girls had a rule that they weren't allowed to leave the complex. There was security there. My mum had two dogs, so that was our routine to walk down and collect the younger ones in the evening. The older ones would be allowed to stay out later, as there was a disco.
201. Me and my mum didn't go down to the entertainment a lot. That Friday night was for me to relax. I have chronic pancreatitis and I can't drink a lot of alcohol. This was diagnosed when I was seventeen years old and was linked to gall bladder problems I was also having at that time. I always knew I would not be able to drink alcohol above a small amount. It would just put me in the hospital. I can't do it. I did have two or three drinks maximum at the caravan on a Friday night, but my mum would never let me sit and drink all night. When I was younger I had a good go at it and I ended up in hospital for two weeks.
202. A Friday night was always just time for me to chill out, so I did not want to go down to the entertainment with lots of screaming kids. [REDACTED] would have his thing on a Friday when he would go to the pub and this was my thing. Time to breathe.
203. [REDACTED] says [REDACTED] *drank whisky and vodka and would tell us to pour it for her. She could drink three quarters of a bottle of vodka or whisky in one night. I would be sitting watching the telly and she'd tell me to go and pour her a drink. She got really aggressive when she started drinking and she wanted to argue with you... She used to take my iPad off me and look through my messages. She would get information and use it against me.'*
204. No. Absolutely not. As I said to you earlier because of my medical condition I was never able to drink a lot. I did have two drinks and the odd time maybe three, but that

was only on a Friday night. I was never drunk as I had to be alert to look after the kids. Health wise there is absolutely no way I could drink like that anyway. The social work knew I had a few drinks on a Friday night.

205. FDL did say to me one time that I wasn't allowed to drink and I said I was. She didn't understand how I was allowed to and her mum wasn't. I told her it was totally different. There's different ways of drinking and I explained that to her. I did not go out to clubs and bars, I was a social drinker at home. It was never a lot and I certainly never asked FDL to pour it for me.
206. FDL then says about me *'If she didn't like something we had done, she would call █████, █████ and me into the living room and give us abuse for hours...She'd say that our rooms were a mess, that we didn't do enough cleaning, that we were weird or we were dirty, or she'd say insulting things about our families. It could be a tiny thing that started this. That's why we were so scared. Nothing we did was good enough. She always had a reason to verbally abuse us. This would usually happen when she was drunk and FLR was at the pub.'*
207. Yes I would say about their rooms being a mess. That was normal. I didn't abuse them. Absolutely not. The Friday night was my chill time and they would all be settled in their rooms. I would have my two wee drinks or me, █████, █████ and █████ would play Tennis on the Wii. FDL would never play. We had fun.
208. Instead of having a meal I would do a wee pick and mix. We would go to Asda and pick up all the things they liked, like sausage rolls and sweets and sit them all on the table. I would sit and have my wee couple of drinks and the kids would be playing or we would watch a DVD. They would all be up picking at the food.
209. Sometimes you had to shout a wee bit in my house because they were all that loud screaming at each other, but I never, ever verbally abused any child or called them any of the names that FDL is saying.

210. FDL then says FLQ *used to always say things to me about my family not wanting me.*
211. Yes those discussions did happen, but not like that. I already said me and FDL would have deep conversations and she would want to talk to me about her parents. She would ask me why she wasn't with them. I never bluntly came out and said "your mum doesn't want you." That would never have happened. We would sit and I would maybe say it was because of her mum's drinking and her lifestyle that the social work decided she couldn't be with her.
212. One time she also asked me why she couldn't stay with her gran and I did say to her that her gran had been asked by social work if she wanted to take them and she said no. That is the way the conversation went. Not the way she is saying. We did have those conversations because she asked a lot of questions about her parents. FDL also told me a lot about her life before she went into care. She could remember all of the men in the house and a man trying to rape her mum once while she was there. She had to try and pull him off her mum. She also remembered her dad trying to stab her mum.
213. FDL found it hard to understand all of this and I knew social work had already spoken to her about it, but we would discuss it too. It wasn't blunt or horrible. I was just trying to speak to her about why she wasn't with her mum.
214. FDL said FLQ *would throw things at us and be quite destructive to the property when she was drunk. She would throw glasses at [REDACTED] and me. They hit me a few times. They never smashed on me, but they struck me and it was sore.*
215. Absolutely not. That's absolute abuse. I just don't know what to say about it. Why would I have these children in my home if I felt like that? You would have to really hate someone to do that, so why would I have them there. I always spoke freely to them. If they were ever unhappy and did not want to stay with me, I told them it was ok to speak to their social workers. They were in my house because I chose for them to be there and because I loved and cared for them. So absolutely not. No.

216. FDL then says that *'She would sometimes say to us when she'd been drinking that if we moved from hers, we would go to a children's unit as no-one wants older children. She would say things like we'd get our stuff stolen or we'd get raped in a children's unit. I was terrified.'*
217. No. Definitely not. There were conversations in my house about children's homes. ██████ had been in a children's home and would say it was horrible and that her stuff had been stolen. There was nothing said about rape.
218. That is the only thing I can remember us talking about with ██████ and that was years ago. It was when ██████ still lived with us. I would have been having that conversation with ██████ and FDL may have been there. I would never frighten a child like that. I feel as if FDL is taking things that are normal and twisting them. What bothers me the most is that I never had a clue. There was never a sign about any of this.
219. FDL also says in relation to me *'One Christmas Eve, when I was about thirteen or fourteen, she phoned herself and kidded on she was speaking to the social work about us being taken into a children's unit. She said we were the scum of the earth and made us all pack our bags. We put all our things into black bags.'*
220. Absolutely not. I am actually trying to think in my head, did something happen, but no honestly. On Christmas Eve I would be in the livingroom trying to wrap all of the presents and the girls would all be around me trying to sneak and see the presents. FLR would go to the Barras at midnight to get other wee stuff like he always did. They knew that. No, absolutely not.
221. FDL says *'I was never allowed to have friends round to the house. I only really saw them at school. The diary entry shows how scared I was even to ask to go out.'*
222. That's not true. I took all of my kids to their friend's houses. Where we lived was a totally different district from their school friends. When we moved they wanted to stay at the same school, which was obvious, so they did. Some of their friends maybe stayed back in Barmulloch, so I would have to take them there to visit.

223. [REDACTED] just didn't have any friends. She was a wee loner. The only person she hung about with was my brother's kids. He lived in the same area. I would always say to [REDACTED] do you not want to get your friends over for a sleepover and a pizza, but she always said no. I just thought she didn't have any friends as she never spoke about anyone.
224. Regarding visits with her social worker [REDACTED] says *'She'd come in and we'd all be in the living room. She'd have a short chat with [REDACTED], then ask us, in front of [REDACTED], if there was anything we wanted to talk about privately. We would go, "Nope", and then she would take us to McDonalds. When she took us back, she would have a talk with [REDACTED] somewhere in the house away from us.'*
225. No. Janine did always come in and speak to me first in the livingroom when the kids weren't there. They weren't allowed to be sitting there when I was being spoken to. I would then shout the girls back in and I would leave before Janine spoke with them. I would just sit in my kitchen or go out the back for a smoke. I did not know anything that Janine spoke to the kids about. I was always so clear to them that there was nothing they had to keep back from the social worker. There is no way the social work wouldn't have seen what was going on.
226. [REDACTED] says *'They got me presents for my birthday, but it was never really a big thing. Although I was with them for a long time and would have had lots of Christmases in their house, I don't really remember Christmas. I know that I always got £100 and we all got an IOU from [REDACTED] one year and nothing else.'*
227. I read that and that made me laugh. Every single year, every one of the kids would pick their main present. It was like a laptop, iPad or a new phone. They didn't all have toys. I read somewhere that they had to share toys, but only [REDACTED] had toys. The older ones didn't. They got the one hundred pounds from social work, so they got what they wanted with that. One year I got a laptop for [REDACTED] that was three hundred and fifty pounds. I topped that up. What can you get for a hundred pounds these days? They always got a big main present, but throughout the year I was picking up other presents. I started at the January sales. It was things like t-shirts and pyjamas. Whatever they

were into. Wee silly things. On Christmas day you couldn't see my floor. Social work kept telling me that I was spending too much money on them.

228. I do remember this particular year [FDL] had wanted the latest iPhone which I had to pre-order. It could not be delivered before Christmas day so along with [FDL]'s other presents I put a wee note in a card saying I still owed her an iPhone. None of the other children got an IOU contrary to what [FDL] has said.
229. Another year [FDL] said she needed an iPad to do some school research. We had two laptops in the house. One was mine and the other was for the family, so they could all use that. [FDL] said she wanted an iPad this time though, so she got that for Christmas.
230. There's an entry from [FDL]'s diary dated Christmas 2014 which says '*The entire family are here and so far I've been referred to as the dour-faced one and 'smiles'. I can't help it. I've to be near someone who molested me and forced to act normal, kiss, hug, buy presents and everything else, and I'm the cunt. I'm fucking miserable here...It's like I'm a ghost unless they want me to clean or do something for them. They're nice as anything, except [FLR]. He thinks I'm a fucking slave and I have to follow his orders immediately. I am a person, not a fucking maid. They are paid to look after me but it seems the opposite. All I do is clean and then go to bed. But since I'm always in bed, I'm lazy.*'
231. She is talking about the Cabin. This is what really got to me because we weren't even at the cabin on boxing day. Me, [FLR] and the kids were at home ourselves, then we went to my mum's to open presents and then we went to [FLR]'s mum's on boxing day. We weren't even at the cabin that day. That just shows you, I am sorry I have to say this, what a little liar she is, sitting there, saying exactly what happened that day when we weren't even there. We went to the cabin for the New Year on 30<sup>th</sup> December. We were at home for Christmas. [FLR] wasn't even with us at the cabin. He didn't come. My brother had been at the same cabin the year before and had said it was really nice, so we all decided to go together that year.

232. We didn't see my mum and dad the day we went up to the cabin because I was preparing the food for everyone coming to us at Hogmanay. Everyone came to our cabin about quarter to twelve. There was food and we had the bells.
233. **FDL** also says *'At the bells, they made me sit on **FLM**'s knee for a photo. That's not in my diary. Everyone was doing it for a photo and I had to do it too.'*
234. I saw that bit about the photograph and her saying she had to sit on my dad's knee, which I know for a fact she didn't. I hunted everywhere for the photograph as she was at the back. She was tall. My dad was sitting on the chair and another kid was sitting on the arm of the chair. Sitting down was my niece. **FDL** and **██████████** were really tall, so I know they were standing at the back. The other smaller ones were sitting at the front. While we were in that cabin it was 'grandad this and grandad that'. I don't know what happened, but she just then went in a mood.
235. **FDL** then says *'I had already wore a bikini and been in the hot tub and **FLM** had made an inappropriate comment to me. I refused to go in again.'*
236. No that's not true. My mum, dad and brother left about say half twelve, one o'clock, after the bells. That's when **FDL** and **██████████** put their bikinis on and I did too. We sat in the Jacuzzi. **██████████** didn't want to come in. I came out and **FDL** and **██████████** stayed in gabbing.
237. The next day my dad and my mum came over and my dad went into the Jacuzzi by himself. There's no way he would allow any children to come into the Jacuzzi with him when he was in his trunks. We all had Jacuzzis at our own cabins. **FDL** wasn't even in a bikini when my dad was there, it was after he left. She wouldn't go in the next day because she was in a mood.
238. **FDL** said something to my dad and he said shut up or something like that. I asked her what was the matter and she said she was sick of it. I told her just to get on with it because that was what I did with her when she was in a mood. I just walked away and that is when she has supposedly made the statement about how evil and bad she

could be and that we were going to find out. She was saying it to [REDACTED] but [REDACTED] was walking into the room and heard it too. I found this out later.

239. Another exact from her diary is *'I've never seen a wee lassie like that in my life. She'd put some cunt into a depression. I've never seen anybody like that. If she's walking as slow as she looks, just walk ahead of her. Why the fuck is she so fucking dour-faced? Why doesn't she just fucking leave the hot tub and go sit in the bath? It might get a smile out of her. She can go fuck herself. I am sick and angry at her. Fucking ungrateful bastard...I'll end up getting too annoyed with that lanky streak of piss. I wouldn't go in there if I were you. You'll disturb the two morons. They're so fucking ignorant. In fact, no even, just anti-social and nasty'*.
240. Absolutely not. I am not saying that I didn't say something to my mum like what is the matter with her face, but not anything like that. I would never use those words. I would never swear. I probably was talking about her to my mum, but not derogatory like that. I can't remember. It is impossible I said what is the matter with her we are at this lovely cabin, what is wrong with her face. My mum was my biggest support, so I probably was talking to her, but what she is quoting I said in her diary is definitely not true. She never wrote that in her diary that night either as it wasn't with her at the cabin. It was lying in the house. She commented that she hadn't brought it with her when we were there. She has gone home and written that. It is not a quote by quote on the day. I knew about her diary and it wasn't a secret.
241. Absolutely no way did I speak about that lassie like that. I would never speak about anyone like that, especially not a child. Nothing unusual happened at the cabin. She was just being moody [REDACTED] which I was used to.
242. There is another entry in [REDACTED]'s diary that says *'I had been walking in the forest with everyone. I was on Facebook and shared a post about suicide awareness for transgender people. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] saw it because I was friends with them on Facebook. [REDACTED] thought it was my suicide note and she said, "If you're going to commit suicide, wait until tomorrow. Don't ruin my night"...Everyone was laughing...It says in*



*my diary that I ended up lying on the bathroom floor, crying and they only asked where I was when they wanted me to clean something.'*

243. FDL goes on to say 'I've written in the diary something FLQ said about me to that same evening: "I intend to start this year off how I want it to go. She has walked about with that phone in her hands, talking to her pals. She is so fucking ignorant. She has got a rod up her arse or something like that. I swear to God that cunt would put me into a depression. She never does fuck all. She has completely ruined this holiday and all she's done is sit in that room. Here, she'd make a good Goth, she's got the face for it. Don't you think? Stick black clothes on her and she's alright. She's going up the mountain tomorrow. Hopefully she'll jump off and do us all a favour. I don't want to know her." ...After that FLQ took my phone and iPad off me.'
244. She never left the cabin. She was never outside. There is no way I would let any of the kids walk up a mountain. Absolutely not.
245. The night before none of the family were there. I was cooking most of the day. It was just us. Absolutely no way in this world would I let her walk on those mountains. I got lost driving up there and it was the scariest thing ever. None of us left to walk in any forest at all. We cooked and they helped me. was in and out of the Jacuzzi. We just had a good day, just doing whatever we wanted to. FDL was on top form the first day we were there as well.
246. I can't remember exactly everything that happened. New year's day we were all sitting about and my mum and dad came and my dad went in the Jacuzzi. We weren't meant to leave until the 2<sup>nd</sup> January, but me and my mum were getting fed up so we left the 1<sup>st</sup> January. We were just bored. The kids were bored too. There's only so much you can do in a hot tub. Even on the way home we had a sing song and a laugh in the car and the kids had a video on. None of that rubbish that she is saying happened.
247. FDL says 'One morning, I used 's toothpaste to brush my teeth and went down and told FLQ. FLQ started screaming at me. She shouted, "Do you even want to live here?", and I said that I didn't. This was the first time I had ever said anything

*like that...I stayed at home that day and I ended up telling FLQ that I had been self-harming and making attempts on my life. I told her it was because of the way they were treating me. FLQ was shouting at me and saying things like, "I'm no fucking walking on egg shells just because you want to top yourself". When she'd calmed down, I told her that I wanted to go to the doctor and she said, "Tell me when"...I took quite a serious attempt on my life a few days later and hurt myself quite badly.'*

248. Nope. That never happened. The social work, right away, when FDL told them about it, told me. I knew right away about this, but not from FDL. The day that she stayed off school was the day I took her to the doctors. She didn't sit and say all of this to me. Not once did she say to me she tried to take her own life. She never done anything. She didn't even attempt it. I was on high alert and couldn't sleep. At the time I didn't think she was a liar, as a foster parent I thought this could be true, so I needed to watch her. You don't want to wake up and find a kid dead. There was no serious attempt on her life. I never heard of that. Whether she spoke to the social work and told them that, I don't know. If FDL was saying these things to teachers they would tell social work and social work would tell me.
249. She said somewhere in there that she had a mark on her arm but it looked like a scratch. I didn't even see that. I didn't ask to see her arms, but I did look when we were talking. There was absolutely nothing there. I was on the couch for nearly three weeks watching her. She was only off school because I took her to the doctors. I also told her if she ever needed to talk to me she knew where I was.

### **Helping the Inquiry**

250. I am grateful to speak with the Inquiry and put forward my position. It is like something out of a Charles Dickens novel what FDL is saying. There is no way someone wouldn't have noticed all of that. Family would have and social work who were at my house all the time would have. I am shocked to hear all the things she is saying about me. Until the day she left for school and never came back, we were having a laugh, even that very morning.

251. The only thing I can think of is that she is saying all of this for money. Exactly what she said when she told the others to say the same as her about my dad. Also that she would tell them what to say and they would get the same money. That came from her own sister, [REDACTED]. Other than that I can't understand it. It is like you have this happy family and then suddenly you are faced with all this stuff and you are thinking where did this come from? Why? We had a great life. We really did. It wasn't perfect, but I always thought I had a good relationship with [REDACTED] FDL. I thought her and [REDACTED] would be in my life forever, like the other ones. I know [REDACTED] would still be in a minute.
252. The passage of time could not have affected my memory of events. My memories are clear. All of that in her statement is maybe about events that have happened one way and she has made it another way. [REDACTED] FDL was the least one to get into trouble in my house.
253. This could not have gone undetected. There were too many people in and out my house like family and social work. There were just too many. As soon as I read it I thought you've got to be kidding me? If that had been going on for so long why did she not ask the social work to leave. I am still gobsmacked. I would love to ask her why.
254. Social work were still coming up to my house to see [REDACTED] after [REDACTED] FDL and [REDACTED] left. This is what I don't understand. I wasn't allowed to be a carer anymore, but I still was for [REDACTED].

#### **Lesson to be learned**

255. I would never in my life, if anyone came to me and asked about fostering, recommend it. It is nothing to do with the kids, it is just because of this bad experience that I have had. A kid's words can destroy your life, which it has done to me.

- 256. There was nothing to protect us from, so I don't know what social work could have done differently. We were a normal family. That day the kids were taken was right out of left wing. It did not match with what our family life was like.
  
- 257. I think the social work need to get themselves in gear and be a bit more involved. I did have the family support and I was a strong person, but I feel now that children in social work care should also have an independent person, that is not social work. Even at the schools.

**Other information**

- 258. 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.....  
Dated..... 27 July 2022