

**Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

Witness Statement of

ETB  
[REDACTED]

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is ETB [REDACTED] My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1956 I am 62 years old. My contact details are known to the Inquiry. When I was in care in Scotland my name was ETB [REDACTED] I changed my name by deed pole in 1995.
2. I want to tell you about the two Children's Homes I was in the care of in Glasgow and the foster care placement I had with a family in Dumfries. I can only tell you that between 1958/59 and 1961/62 I was in care in a Children's Home in Glasgow. I do not know the name of that home. Between 1961/62 – 1967/68 I was placed in another children's home in Glasgow which I don't know the name of. Between 1968/69 and 1971 I was in a foster placement in Dumfries. I do not wish to provide the name of my foster parents.
3. I know that I was put into care as a result of being made a Ward of Court and I was only two years old at the time. I just can't recall the names of the children's homes. I think that the dates are as accurate as I can be.

**Life before going into care**

4. I never knew my family. I only met my sister last year. My parents are both dead. I was brought up in the Gorbals in Glasgow. My father's name was [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and my mother's name was [REDACTED] I am the eldest and have two brothers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and two sisters FDG [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] I had another brother called [REDACTED] who died.

5. I have only just learned that all my brothers and sisters were put into care at some time during their childhood. I know very little about it as I was only two when I was made a ward of the court and went into care. My parents had battered me black and blue and I assume that the authorities became involved and removed me from the family home. I was to reside between two children's homes for the next ten years.

**First care home in Glasgow, name not known.**

6.  Secondary Institutions - to be published later
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- 8.
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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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**Leaving first care placement in Glasgow**

24. I was moved to another children's home also in the Glasgow area. I don't know why but I was now school age.

**Second care placement in Glasgow, name not known.**

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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**Leaving second care placement**

38. I was now about thirteen years old and had been in care since I was two. I don't know how the next move came about as I had no input. I do know that a lot of prospective foster parents would visit the home and see what boys they would take to foster. I think that is how my next move to foster care came about.

39. I want to make it clear that I don't want to give you the name of my foster parents. I am very sure that they are not a risk to children. I have my own reasons for not naming them. I can tell you that I went to Dumfries with them when they took me out of my second children's home.

### **Foster placement in Dumfries**

40. My foster parents had a nice house in Dumfries. They had a son who was about the same age as me. I think that the foster parents had been to the home and had agreed to take me. I don't recall any meetings with them before I went to Dumfries.
41. It was a normal family house which sat on its own. I shared a bedroom with the son. There is not much to tell you about what went on as it was a normal life. My foster mother owned a pub and my foster father worked in selling insurance.

### **Routine**

42. It was like being with a normal family. The food was very good and I was well looked after apart from the odd slap I received from my foster parents.

### *School*

43. I was enrolled at St Andrew's School in Dumfries but I never went to school. I used to sneak off. I would be sent off to go to school every morning and my foster parents were under the impression that I was going every day.
44. It was an all boys' school. It was for secondary school education. I never attended the school but I don't have any memories of my foster parents being involved at any meetings with the staff or with social workers.
45. When I wasn't at school I would do things like go ferreting and I just amused myself as I was happy with my own company.



*Leisure time and activities and pocket money.*

46. I used to attend the local martial arts club in Dumfries and I really enjoyed that. I had been a heavy smoker since I was about eight and I took every opportunity to pinch cigarettes from my foster parents. I don't recall getting pocket money.

*Birthdays/Christmas and trips*

47. I never celebrated Christmas or my birthday when I was in care. I can't recall ever going away on any trips anywhere.

*Visits*

48. I had no family visits and I didn't know my brothers and sisters as I was the oldest and had been in care since age two. I can't recall any meetings with the social workers although my foster parents may have met with them when I was not in the house. I certainly didn't sit down at any meetings with them and my parents.

*Punishment in foster care*

49. The son used to pick on me and hit me. I would hit him back and he would go running to his parents to complain. I would get another slap from my foster mother or father depending on who was about. It was usually a slap on the head or the face. I think that the son used to provoke me on purpose to promote a reaction.
50. On one occasion I pinned my foster mother against the wall. She was hitting me for allegedly attacking her son. I had had enough and so I pinned her against the wall and told her to leave me alone. She said to me that I must have done whatever it was because her son doesn't tell lies.

51. Despite the fact I challenged her It didn't stop my foster mother from hitting me. I would do things wrong and got the odd slap for it. The rest of time at foster care passed without incident. I did feel again that I was blamed for things when it was not my fault.

*Contact with birth family.*

52. In later life my brother told me that he had passed a message through his social worker who was based in Glasgow to try to make contact with me. I had learned from my social worker that I had brothers and sisters who were also in care. I do recall that I asked the social worker to try to make contact but never heard any more. My brother [REDACTED] told me that his social worker had told him that I had said I didn't want to get in touch with them which was not true. I knew I had a family but I didn't meet them till much later in life.

**Abuse in foster care**

53. The only thing that I felt was that again I was being blamed for things that I did not do and was being punished. The foster parents would give me the odd slap. My foster parent's son would get me into trouble by telling his parents that I had hit him and that it was my fault. I did get the odd slap for being naughty but that aside I had no other issues with my foster parents. I was never seriously assaulted by them or had to attend hospital.

**Leaving foster care**

54. I never attended school when I was in foster care. I was either fifteen or sixteen and I was of school leaving age. I left school and I managed to get a job as a painter and decorator. I stayed at the foster home until I was sixteen and a half. I had to go home with my wages unopened and my step mother would give me a fiver from my pay packet. I think that my take home pay was thirty pounds a week.

### **Life after being in care**

55. When I was about seventeen I left my foster home and went back to Glasgow. I stayed in digs and was doing my painting and decorating. During my working life I have worked for a travelling fair going all round the country. I have had security jobs.
56. I was married and divorced within a two year period. She went off with another man. I was 28 when I got married. I have no children. I have lived all over England and Scotland depending on where the work took me.

### **Impact**

57. I don't think that my life in care affected the relationships that I had with people. I don't think that I have been affected too badly with the way I was brought up as a child. The biggest thing is that I didn't know my birth parents and I wasn't able to spend time with my brothers and sister as I didn't know them.
58. I do get angry and I am quick tempered. I think it is because I was in care and that is the result of what I experienced. My temper has got me into trouble in the past with the authorities. I have never sought any treatment or counselling as I have always managed it on my own. Sometimes I do get flashbacks to my time in care.
59. I finally met some of my birth family in recent years. I met ██████ a year ago and I met <sup>FDG</sup> ██████ last year in 2018. I met ██████ my youngest brother about three or four years ago. I never met ██████ This all came about because I was seeing a girl and she told me that my brother ██████ had been on Facebook trying to make contact. This started the ball rolling and I got in touch with them all except ██████

### **Reporting of Abuse**

60. I have never had any occasion to report the abuse that I suffered when I was in residential or foster care. I never told the social worker about what was happening in the children's homes because I thought she already knew.

**Records**

- 61. My sister [REDACTED] knows more about my childhood than I do because she has seen the records. I would like to see my local authority records and my medical records.

**Lessons to be learned**

- 62. I think that the staff at children's homes should be more involved with the children. I think that the Police should close some of them down and convict the people who worked in them for abusing the children.

**Other information**

- 63. In 1995 I decided that I didn't like the name I had been born with and so I changed it by deed poll from [REDACTED] ETB to [REDACTED] ETB
- 64. I have no objection to my witness statement being published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed... [REDACTED] ETB .....

Dated... 20/08/2019 .....

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