

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

### Witness Statement of

FDG

Support person present:

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

### Life before going into care

2. My parents were and My mother was also known as I had several siblings, ETB and Somebody has told me that the family home was in Blackhill in Glasgow but I don't know if that is true or not. My birth certificate says I was born at Kelvin, Glasgow. When I was 16, I went and got my birth certificate and it said I was born on 1962. I had been brought up to believe it was
3. My mother suffered from mental health difficulties and the only help she got was to have her children removed from her care. I had no contact with my mother after being taken into care. I have learned that she changed her name and had more children. When I found that out, it was really painful. We were trying to trace her when we found out that she had died.
4. I don't know much about my dad. The social work department said that if I handed back some of my files that I managed to obtain from a social worker that they would give me a letter with details about him, but they never did.

5. I was two years old when I was removed from my parents care. My memories of this time are extremely limited. I was taken out of a house by two adults wearing grey suits. One was male and one was female. They were shouting at me and some other children, presumably my siblings. They shouted at us to get into a car. I remember being very distressed and upset. I was crying, the other children were crying and screaming in fear. We were told by the two adults in suits to shut up and sit back. The female was physically lashing out at us.
6. The next thing I remember is that we were put into a big room. There was a piano in this room. I thought it was otherwise empty but my sister has said that there were beds in it. I remember my siblings playing with the piano. I remember being too scared to move.

#### **The [REDACTED] foster placement, 1964**

7. I don't know if Mrs [REDACTED] had a husband or children of her own. I can't remember her address. My sister [REDACTED] and I were both placed with Mrs [REDACTED] I remember feeling scared there, but Mrs [REDACTED] didn't abuse me, or at least I have no memory of any abuse. I was too young to have insight into the timescale of my length of stay there. I remember Mrs [REDACTED] had some machine to exercise her jaw. She was on it all the time. I have one strange memory there of being taken away by a man and Mrs [REDACTED] saying, "Why have you got this child?" to the man, and grabbing me away from him. I don't know who the man was. It could have been my dad.
8. Due to my young age, I have no recollection of leaving Mrs [REDACTED] and going to my next placement with the [REDACTED] family.

#### **The [REDACTED] foster placement (dates unknown)**

9. I remember feeling happy at the [REDACTED] placement. I felt loved and part of the family. I remember going around without any pants on. I think this may have been when I was potty training. They had a little boy called [REDACTED] and their parents were really nice, like grandparents to us. I didn't understand that I wasn't part of this

supportive family unit. [REDACTED] and I had toys and I felt secure. We had little gloves and bags for going to church. I have no memory of abuse at this placement.

10. Mrs [REDACTED] was having a baby and we could no longer stay there. My sister and I were moved from this placement. This was very traumatic. I didn't understand what was going on. I thought they were my mum and dad. I remember being very upset. We were told we were going to see our brothers and that our toys would come with us. We were moved to Tiree but my toys never came.
11. I think I was taken to a children's assessment centre whilst in this placement. I have memories of a place called Larkhall. I remember being placed in a playroom and adults were observing. I remember being scared when other children came in and I would hide.

**The [REDACTED] foster placement, Tiree, 1967 to 1975**

12. I went to Tiree in 1967 when I was 5 years old. I remember getting off the plane in Tiree and waiting for my toys. I was told they would arrive later but they never did.
13. [REDACTED] and I were placed at [REDACTED] farm with [REDACTED] We were there for about 7 years. My brothers were in a different foster placement with the [REDACTED] family. The [REDACTED] resided in a 4-bedroom house. The [REDACTED] had four children of their own, two boys and two girls. The boys just ignored us, we were just a pain to them. I had a difficult relationship with their daughter [REDACTED] She was the same age as me. I remember our birthdays were very close together. Perhaps that is when my birthday was moved to being the [REDACTED] instead of the [REDACTED] Their other daughter [REDACTED] wrote me a letter years after we left, apologising for all of her cruelty towards me. I remember she was very rough washing my hair.
14. There were five of us there as foster children or "boarded out children" as we were called. [REDACTED] and myself and three sisters, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] suffered very badly from asthma. I think the [REDACTED] liked

the [REDACTED] sisters better than us. Mrs FKH [REDACTED] used to say to me, "No wonder your mother didn't want you." I think we developed a bad reputation, as when my brother left his foster placement elsewhere on the island, he stole a lot of money but he didn't lock his case and it all fell out when he got on the boat to leave.

15. All the boarded out children slept in one room. This room was small and removed from the main residence but still part of the overall building. [REDACTED] and I shared a queen size bed and the others had single beds. I remember I shook my head from side to side to get to sleep. There was no other furniture. We had to use an outside toilet and the FKH/FKJ [REDACTED] used the inside toilet.
16. We were boarded out on a small island and everyone was aware of who we were. We were treated like slaves. We were made to do the heavy farm duties, when the biological children of the FKH/FKJ [REDACTED] were not.
17. Mrs FKH [REDACTED] would make our clothes from old bed sheets, linen, and curtains. Her own children wore normal clothes purchased from the shops. Occasionally I would get something from the FKH/FKJ [REDACTED] daughter [REDACTED] if she didn't want it. We had one set of normal clothes. These were kept for church on Sunday, or for when the social worker visited.
18. We were told to call the FKH/FKJ [REDACTED] "Mum and Dad" but I just couldn't do it. I couldn't bring myself to call her, "Mummy".
19. Mr and Mrs FKH/FKJ [REDACTED] received stamp books that were for the foster children. This was the money from the Social Work Department for our pocket money or for expenditure. I remember opening a cupboard once, and seeing these payment books. We were never allowed money, nor were we treated as equals in the home. Coming from Glasgow to a Gaelic speaking island was like being on the moon. I was criticised for my speech.



## Routine at the FKH/FKJ placement

### *Food*

20. The boarded out children were not allowed to eat with the family. We ate afterwards. We were only allowed to eat with the family on Harvest Days or the occasional Christmas.
21. We ate the leftovers. Mrs FKH would break up the leftover chicken carcass into five portions and we would have that and a few potatoes, we were only allowed one potato. We worked for all this and washed all the dishes. We ate in the scullery.
22. When they had chicken, they would get a chicken and wring its neck but sometimes it would still make a sound like it wasn't completely dead. They had them hanging up in a cupboard and when I had to go in there, I would hear these poor creatures. I can't eat chicken now.
23. At times, we were so hungry that we would eat raw potatoes from the field. They would say, "You can eat them quick enough, but you can't pick them quick enough." It made you scared to eat, even when they were giving you food. This is where my eating disorder began.
24. We didn't get access to fresh water. We would drink out of puddles. You didn't dare ask for a glass of water. You were too scared. The school was aware of the level of starvation and depravation we were living in. Some of the dinner ladies would give us extra food, as they knew we were starving.
25. Occasionally we would steal food. I stole porridge oats. I became very ill. Mrs FKH told me that she had put rat poison into the oats. We stole food out of the freezer and left it under our beds to thaw out. I remember that for breakfast, we would have a piece and jam.

*Schooling*

26. I remember being the dummy of the class. I was barely picking up English, let alone Gaelic. The school taught in English but the accent made it difficult.
27. The secondary school was also on Tiree. Mr Eves was the English teacher. He was wonderful, I loved him. If he was taking an activity I would do it, no matter what it was.
28. When we went to secondary school, I got to see my brothers. They were in a different foster placement on the island, with the EFA-EFB family and had been at a different primary school.
29. After school, we did our homework in the scullery.

*Chores*

30. We had to polish all the shoes but we wore wellies most of the time. We were up at 6 am to work with the farmers. I had to do the hens. I was terrified of them. I would have to collect the eggs and feed the hens. We had to dig up potatoes and plant potatoes. We had to lift the hay, which could be really heavy. What angers me is that their own children were not allowed to lift it, as if it was too much to expect them to do that.
31. When we had done all that at the FKH/FKJ we then had to do it for their friends. Going to school was a release.

*Leisure time*

32. On Sundays, Mrs FKH would get comics for her daughters. Afterwards, we would get to look at them. I can't remember any books, but I couldn't read anyway. My sister used to read a book to me.

33. My sister and I were in the Brownies but we didn't get to go to Guides. We were told by the FKH/FKJ that we weren't good enough because of stealing bread when we were hungry. They called us thieves. They had all these stamp payment books for the boarded out children for the payment of pocket money etc but I never got any of it. They were the thieves, they kept the money for themselves.
34. There were no trips away for the day. At the annual animal show, if they sold all of their livestock, we would get half a banana each.
35. One year, they told us we were all going to Tenerife, but then [redacted] and I were told that we were not going. That was because [redacted] had broken a dish and hadn't admitted to doing it. She usually did admit it, if she had done something wrong. Instead of going to Tenerife, we went to a different foster placement in Coatbridge for two weeks. It was good. At least we were fed there. Usually when the FKH/FKJ went on holiday, we stayed with other islanders.

#### *Bedwetting*

36. I didn't suffer from bedwetting. There was one girl who did. She was given tablets but that didn't stop it. She would have to do the walk of shame and carry her sheets downstairs. I'm ashamed to say I hit her a couple of times. I couldn't stand the smell of urine.

#### *Healthcare*

37. We has a bath once a week, and we went in the bath two at a time. Mrs FKH was a trained nurse. Due to this, the boarded out were not permitted access to medical services on the island. We were treated with animal medication. When I got ringworm, I was treated with animal medication.
38. They kept our hair cut short, and it was kept to an inch below the ears. Their daughters had beautiful long flowing hair and I admit I was jealous.

39. When I got my first period, I thought I was dying. No one explained to me what was happening to me. My sanitary towels were just torn up sheets, and they had to be re-used.
40. The dentist used to come to the school in a caravan. I never saw the [FKH/FKJ] daughters going to the dentist but we boarded out children did. There was no anaesthetic and I had three teeth taken out in one day.
41. I don't think it was anything to do with the dentist but there was a girl, another boarded out who lived in a different house. Her name was [REDACTED] She had five teeth taken out on the Friday and on the Saturday, she was dead. She died in a shed or barn that had been set on fire. I don't know if it was reported. That day was the only day Mrs [FKH] [REDACTED] cuddled us.

#### *Visits/inspections*

42. We were dressed in our nice clothes when the Social Worker visited. Our beds were made nice and in all appearances, the placement looked nice. The Social Worker did speak to us but they never spoke to us alone. The Social Worker I remember was called Scott.
43. [FKJ] [REDACTED] brother worked at the airport and his friends worked on the ferries, so he knew about all comings-and-goings. They knew when this Social Worker would be visiting so they knew to get our good clothes and to have the bedding all changed.
44. I can remember three social work visits but we never had the opportunity to speak to them on our own. There were no other official visitors to the house.

#### *Birthdays/Christmas*

45. Your birthday was celebrated with a cake. I don't remember any presents.



46. At Christmas, we would get some toys. I had a dolly with no legs and I loved it. Once, Mrs <sup>FKH</sup> bought me a dolly's bed for my dolly, but later, she got angry and stood on it.
47. At New Year, they would wake us up at midnight for a midnight feast.

*Religion*

48. We went to church each week. It was in Gaelic. The Protestant church is a big thing in the Western Isles. We said prayers every night. Mrs <sup>FKH</sup> must have taught us them.

**Abuse at the <sup>FKH/FKJ</sup> placement**

49. Mr <sup>FKJ</sup> would beat us, with a belt. You were allowed to hit children then. All the boarded-out children got it, except <sup>FKJ</sup>. She was too ill. I never saw him hitting his own children. It was always Mr <sup>FKJ</sup> who beat us, not Mrs <sup>FKH</sup>. He would make a noise, like sucking on his teeth. When he made that noise, you knew that you were going to be belted. It would be prompted by our behaviour, for example, if we had stolen food, so the beatings could be quite frequent. It was usually about four or five hits of the belt each time.
50. He would aim for your bottom, or other areas of your body where the marks wouldn't be seen, but of course, you would try to protect yourself. It was a reflex to try to cover where he was aiming with your arms and hands so you would end up with visible welts.
51. As a child, it was frightening to be belted. I got used to it. It became part of life, part of my existence. I can't remember when it started.
52. I remember visiting an empty house up the road from the <sup>FKH/FKJ</sup>. I was about seven years old. I knew I shouldn't have been there, but it was an empty house and I

used to go there and play house. One day, there was an old man there. I think his name was [REDACTED]. He lived in a place called [REDACTED] in a thatched house. I think he was checking the house, it may have belonged to his mother. This man showed me his penis and told me to touch it and to kiss it. He said if I did, then he wouldn't tell the [REDACTED] I was in the house, so I did as he said. I knew that if the [REDACTED] found out I was in the house, I would be beaten and abused in other ways, like having food withheld. I never went back to that house, but I did see the man again, going to check the house, or in the passing. It was a small island. If I saw him, I would run and hide. You didn't know that you should tell anyone about this type of thing.

53. When I was in secondary one or two, I was asked by Mr [REDACTED] to take something to a neighbour called [REDACTED]. It was his pension money. I was entrusted with it because I would never steal from him, he was such a good man. On the way to [REDACTED] I met up with the brother of one of my friends. He was called Ian McKinnon. He had blonde hair. His nickname was Scruffy. I think he lives in Oban now. Ian was over school age, he was an adult. He had a motorbike and he offered me a lift on the bike. It was normal custom on the island to accept lifts from people and if you didn't it would cause offence. When we got to a ruined house close to [REDACTED] house, he took me into the house. He grabbed me and kissed me. Then he raped me. I didn't know what rape was at that age. I thought you could get pregnant from just a kiss. I was in shock. I didn't tell [REDACTED] when I got to his house, I just gave him his pension and walked home. I had to walk past the ruined house again.
54. Much later in life, I told my sister what had happened to me. She said that it hadn't happened to her.

#### Leaving the [REDACTED] placement

55. My sister [REDACTED] was removed from the [REDACTED] not long after I was raped by Ian McKinnon. My sister had reported the abuse at the [REDACTED] home and that is why she was removed. She reported it to a school teacher, Mr McPherson. When she

left, I was devastated. I wasn't told anything. No one explained anything. I just came home from school and she was gone.

56. I was also removed shortly after the rape. I was at breakfast and I was told that I was not going to school, I was going to Oban. I was given my nice clothes to wear, so I knew something important was happening.
57. We took the ferry to Oban, and then the train to Glasgow, but nobody told me what was happening. The <sup>FKH/FKJ</sup> daughter <sup>FKH</sup> must have known what was happening because she gave me a set of her earrings. They left me on my own at Queen Street train station. Mrs <sup>FKH</sup> told me to sit on a seat, and that a black man called Fred Burke would come and collect me, and they just left me there. I was screaming, "Don't leave me. I'll be good."
58. Fred Burke was a Social Worker. He was black and that was quite a shock as I had never seen a black person before. I am not racist, I had just never seen a black person. We didn't have television on Tiree. He arrived about 30 minutes after Mrs <sup>FKH</sup> left me. I could see that he was deeply upset that Mrs <sup>FKH</sup> had left me alone. He tried to console me and he could see that I was scared. He didn't ask me any questions about any abuse at the <sup>FKH/FKJ</sup>. He told me he was going to take me to see my sister, and he took me to my placement at Ruckhill.

#### **Ruckhill foster placement, 1975**

59. Fred took me to Ruckhill in Glasgow. <sup>FKH</sup> was already there. The placement was quite normal. No abuse occurred here to the best of my knowledge. I did feel scared though, being in the city. It was extremely noisy. I had grown up on an island and I wasn't used to the sound of fire engine sirens. <sup>FKH</sup> ran away from here but I don't know why. This was a short stay placement, and then I got relocated to Kilsyth where <sup>FKH</sup> had already been placed.

**Kilsyth foster placement, 1975**

60. This placement was with a woman called [REDACTED]. She was a single parent. She worked for the Liberal Party. She had a wee black boy. I had thought he may have been fostered but he was her own. [REDACTED] and I ended up being great baby sitters for her. She went out a lot. I can't remember how long we were there.

**Routine at Kilsyth foster placement**

61. [REDACTED] and I shared a room. We had our own clothes and we got pocket money. We were well looked after.

*Food*

62. The food was good at this placement.

*Schooling*

63. We were enrolled in a mainstream school but I can't remember which one.

*Chores*

64. We just had to do what you might expect your own children to do, washing dishes etc. I used to have to go to the shops to get cigarettes for [REDACTED] I used to open the packet carefully, take three out and then seal the packet up again
65. I can't remember having any birthday or Christmas at Kilsyth.

**Abuse at Kilsyth foster placement**

66. I remember one day, going home from school, three boys caught me in a quarry type area. I think they were older than me, above me in school. I don't know their names.



They raped me. They called it a gangbang. They all had their way with my body. I didn't tell anyone about this incident.

### **Leaving Kilsyth foster placement**

67. I can remember Miss [REDACTED] asking [REDACTED] and I if we wanted to go on holiday and obviously, we said yes. She offered us the choice of going to stay with the FKH/FKJ [REDACTED] on Tiree for a week or going on holiday with her to Cornwall. I don't know why but [REDACTED] and I chose to go back to Tiree. I think I thought I might get to see my brother.
68. We only went back to Tiree for one week. The FKH/FKJ [REDACTED] just left us to our own devices. Then Mrs FKH [REDACTED] told us that we weren't going back to Kilsyth. She said [REDACTED] didn't want us anymore. [REDACTED] and I then went to West Princes Street children's home.

### **West Princes Street children's home, Glasgow 1976**

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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**Marthara Salvation Army placement, Denistoun, Glasgow 1976 to 1977**

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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Secondary Institutions - to be published later



84.

**Bearsden foster placement, Glasgow 1977**

85. The Bearsden placement was in a family house. It was a great placement. I don't know how long I was there. I stole £5 for my sister [REDACTED]. She had been in touch with me and told me that she had no food. When my theft was discovered, I was removed from this placement and went to Beechwood. I am so sorry for stealing from them.

**Beechwood remand home placement, Glasgow 1977**

86. I was meant to be at Beechwood for a 21-day assessment but I was there for much longer. I think I was there for about eight months. There was some talk about me going to stay with [REDACTED] as she was 16 by then, but they never offered her any money for my keep and she just couldn't afford to have me without financial support. I was not involved in any of this discussion.

## **Routine at Beechwood remand home**

### *First day*

87. When I went to Beechwood, I went with a social worker. I think his name was Frank. [REDACTED] accompanied me too. She had left the care system by this time. We met the manager, MYM [REDACTED]. He was late forties with dark hair. I was very grown-up looking by this time and MYM [REDACTED] thought that I was a social worker accompanying [REDACTED]. I can't remember the names of any of the other staff.
88. It was all girls my age at Beechwood.

### *Schooling*

89. The children at Beechwood did not attend mainstream school. We were educated in the home. As part of the assessment, they checked my reading ability. I was embarrassed to be told that I had the reading age of a seven or eight year old child. I must have been fourteen.

### *Leisure time*

90. There were many activities at weekends and we would watch films with MYM [REDACTED] MYM [REDACTED]

### *Birthdays/Christmas*

91. I can't remember any birthday or Christmas at Beechwood.

### Abuse at Beechwood remand home

92. As time passed at Beechwood, MYM became very affectionate towards me. He would cuddle me. I was just recovering from an abortion and he was showing me affection that I hadn't ever had in my life.
93. MYM would watch horror movies with me and the other children in the living room of the home. As normal young girls, we would get scared whilst watching the films and I would cuddle in to MYM
94. One night, I woke up with a terrible nosebleed and I went into MYM room, which was next to mine. We didn't have sex but we kissed and fondled each other. He didn't try to discourage me from doing this.
95. MYM was aware that following my pregnancy, I had contracted a sexually transmitted infection. He would administer the medicine to me. This is the reason that he didn't have sex with me. The relationship I had with MYM offered me incentives. I was allowed out later than other residents were and I would get a larger cigarette allowance. I was never penalised or punished by the staff for my behaviour. The punishment for breaking rules at Beechwood was the loss of pocket money, but that never happened to me. This situation continued for about 8 months. MYM behaviour never took place in front of other staff members.

### Leaving Beechwood remand home

96. One day, I was told I was leaving and that I was being sent to a convent for my immoral behaviour. This was an immediate move. I wasn't given an opportunity to come to terms with it. In the weeks prior to being moved, MYM became distant from me. He had begun to favour another young girl. I was aware after moving from Beechwood that MYM remained in position as a manager there.

### **St Euphrasia's Convent placement, Glasgow 1977 to 1978**

97. St Euphrasia's was a massive building with a massive big driveway. I remember going there and thinking, "Oh my god, I'm in the middle of penguins." I had been brought up as Protestant, even though I later found out that my real family were Catholic. The Catholic nuns told me that because I was Protestant that I was going to purgatory. I was treated differently. The nuns were harder on the Catholic children because they were trying to save those children. They weren't trying to save me. There were children who were there during the week in term-time, but they would go home to their parents at weekends and school holidays. I don't know how long I was at St Euphrasia's.

### **Routine at St Euphrasia's Convent**

98. We were all put into different houses, with names like, "St Clair." All the girls were around my age. We had a uniform to wear. Children like me remained in the convent. We had no access to outside schooling, instead we packed pins. The convent had a contract, or a company, called Coast. We were treated as slaves, working the full day packing pins into these disc shaped boxes. You would twist the side and the pins could come out.

### *Mornings/Bedtime.*

99. We slept in dormitories. After a while, I got put in a room on my own because I was stealing make-up from other girls because I didn't have any. I didn't have any belongings of my own.
100. You got up in the morning and you were off to pack pins. I had a cigarette allowance. One cigarette a day, two on Saint's days



101. At night, we were locked in our dormitories again. I felt like a prisoner and wanted to be free, like a piece of paper floating in the breeze.

*Washing/Bathing*

102. I can't remember the daily washing routine, but there must have been one. We would have to shower in front of the nuns if you had been doing P.E. I refused to do this, I couldn't do it so I didn't do P.E. There was a rumour that one of the nuns was a lesbian.

*Food*

103. We were well fed.

*Schooling*

104. To begin with, we had no access to outside schooling. I finally got to mainstream school when I was 15 years old. Mrs Young was my housemother. She was lovely. She was the one who organised for me to go to mainstream school. I went to Park Mains High School, when I was fifteen.
105. I had missed pretty much all of my schooling and the teachers estimated I had a reading age of nine. I was unable to follow the curriculum. I can't remember any of the staff but I remember it being organised. They decided to teach me life skills instead. I sat at the school reception and answered the phones. I was quite good at it, and I enjoyed it. It allowed me to feel like I was learning and helping.

*Chores*

106. After packing pins all day, we would still have to do chores around the convent, such as waxing and buffing the floors.

*Activities*

107. We got to watch TV. The nuns took us swimming, but I couldn't swim and they never bothered to teach me so I couldn't take part. I just had to watch.
108. I got to go to my sister's house at the weekend a couple of times. The nuns would make up a box of food for me to take with me. They were good to us in that way.

*Visits/inspections*

109. I had a social worker, Brother Clement. He was a monk. I only met him once. My sister visited me two or three times and I enjoyed that.

*Birthdays/Christmas*

110. I think I may have been there for two Christmases. I think I got a card on my birthday. At Christmas break, the convent closed, even to children like me. I went to a short-term foster placement with Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] in Livingston. Mrs [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] sister-in-law. I started going there at weekends too. I remember enjoying my time there as it gave me a sense of normality.
111. I can remember getting a Christmas present. I remember thinking that was me sorted, as it meant I had something to give my sister for Christmas.

*Religious instruction*

112. We all had to take part in mass but the non-Catholic children were treated differently. We didn't get communion. I remember a discussion about heaven and hell and I wondered where I would go. That's when the nuns told me I would be going to purgatory.

**Abuse at St Euphrasia's**

113. I was not sexually abused at St Euphrasia's. I wasn't beaten either. Other children were beaten. It depended on whether or not the nuns thought they could save your soul.
114. There were some rooms high up in the loft. I don't know what happened in there, but some girls who went in there came out very scared. When they came out, you could see something was wrong. They would be in there for days and days

**Leaving St Euphrasia's**

115. You were allowed to leave when you were sixteen. I ran away after finishing school on [REDACTED] 1978. I never went back. I told them I was staying with a friend in Drumchapel but that wasn't true, I just wanted to be free from the care system. The social work department never checked up. I think there was a Children's Panel hearing and I was told I didn't have to go back. I had no further contact with the Social Work department until I was about twenty.
116. I was never given any preparation in care for living life out of care.
117. I asked my sister if I could stay with her in Drumchapel. She was living with her boyfriend, and although he said I could stay, she said, "No." She gave me four boiled eggs for food and sent me away. I did then stay with a friend but I was almost raped there and I ended up being homeless.

## Life after being in care

### *Homelessness 1978 to 1982*

118. I was homeless and I stayed in the park. I broke in to the hut for the pitch-and-putt and slept there. In those days, the dairies and bakers would deliver your bread and milk in the morning and leave it on your doorstep. If I got up early enough I could steal milk and some rolls and that would be my food sorted out for the day.
119. After the park, I stayed in a friend's close. Then I stayed with a girl who I had thought was a man. It took me a year to realise this person was female, not male. I think this was due to me starting to grow up and wanting children of my own.
120. That feeling of wanting children of my own grew, but I didn't have a man. I did know where the red-light district was though. I went there and sold my body for £5 in order to get pregnant, and I got pregnant but my baby was still-born. The same thing the next year and I got pregnant again. This time I carried my baby to term.
121. After that, I moved in with another man. Then I met my husband, [REDACTED] and I had two more children with him.

### *Marriage to [REDACTED]*

122. I already had my daughters [REDACTED] who was born in 1982, and [REDACTED] who was born in 1985. After I married [REDACTED] we had [REDACTED] in 1989 and [REDACTED] in 1992.
123. I already knew about [REDACTED] being responsible for abuse before I married him. He told me that he had touched one of his other children, [REDACTED] I thought that if I just told him that I loved him and that we would be together forever that I could cure him.



124. When I was pregnant with [REDACTED] there was a problem with [REDACTED] It was a problem with her bowels. I took her for medical checks and at the hospital, they asked me, "Is there any chance this child could have been abused?" After that, and with what [REDACTED] had hinted at about [REDACTED] I left him. Any thought about trying to cure him just left me. I shouted, "Paedo" at him. He wrote on the kitchen wall, "Paedophiles have rights too." He had done it in ketchup. I thought it was the pet hamster's guts or something. I told the kids to pack their best clothes and to take one toy each and we left and went to Aberdeen. I was scared that my children would be taken from me.
125. I put in for a divorce from [REDACTED] after that. I believe he is now living on the Isle of Bute. His daughter [REDACTED] stays in that area too and there is a possibility that he has fathered a son by her.

*Abuse by MYO [REDACTED] Social Worker, Aberdeen*

126. When I got to Aberdeen, I went straight to the council housing department. I said that my husband was a very violent man. My daughter [REDACTED] was still having her bowel problems. She had to have them evacuated. I asked them for a second opinion about the cause of the problem, but I didn't mention the question about possible abuse that was raised before I left Glasgow. They didn't say anything about abuse, they just said it was down to poor potty training. That is when the Social Work department got involved again.
127. I was introduced to my Social Worker, MYO [REDACTED]. He was based at the hospital where [REDACTED] was being treated. My first impression was that he was nice. He gave me bus tokens for myself and my other three children while [REDACTED] was being treated as an in-patient.
128. After [REDACTED] was discharged, MYO [REDACTED] came for a follow-up visit to my house. I was very scared of Social Worker's by this point in my life and I told him this. He reassured me. He cuddled me and kissed me on the cheek. He promised to help me. He did offer support in the form of bus tokens to get the kids to school. My children

were also awarded Christmas presents by the Social Work department. I told MYO I didn't want my family on Social Work records. I said I would do anything. MYO was obviously attracted to me and so I offered him my body. It moved into being a sexual relationship very quickly. That kept me off the radar. I received food stamps and other incentives from MYO to have sex with him. I thought that by having this type of relationship with MYO, I could get the help that I needed. My older daughter got to go on holidays organised by the Social Work. He assisted in getting my youngest daughter into the [REDACTED] nursery. MYO's wife managed this.

129. I confided in MYO that I wanted to write a book about how I was treated in care. I asked to see my social work files. MYO gave the original file to me. I didn't want to return the file and this caused problems for him. I discussed with MYO my concerns about my eldest daughter spending time with older men. She was spending time with [REDACTED] a local shop owner and [REDACTED] a teacher at St Machar's Academy. MYO advised me to report this.

*Abuse of my daughter by [REDACTED]*

130. The police told me that he had groomed another girl. He was so jealous when she wanted to get away that he stabbed her eight times. He almost killed her. He interfered with my daughter and she had a termination. He was clever enough to tell her to write a letter to the Procurator Fiscal saying it was her fault, so he got off. He [REDACTED] kidding on he was trying to commit suicide. He got sympathy for the apparent expression of remorse.
131. I became scared that my daughters would be removed from my care. I recorded the next visit I had from MYO. I sello-taped a Dictaphone to my body. I told MYO he was abusing me, and the same was happening to my daughter.

**Reporting of abuse by MYO Wilson**

132. I became scared so I went to Aberdeen City Council headquarters, and reported MYO. I told them I had the recording and they asked me for it. I told them I had a

copy but I didn't. After that, two senior social workers came to my home and asked me questions about MYO and if I had any more proof. I told them that I had been in his home. I was under extreme duress when they questioned me. My memories of the days after this are poor, as I was in a traumatic state. I have now been diagnosed as suffering from Complex Post-Traumatic-Stress-Disorder.

133. I remember being told by Aberdeen Council, that if I didn't give them back the social work files that they would take me to court. My immediate thought was that they were trying to take my children. My life experience of the care system taught me not to trust them, that they broke families up. That they didn't look after children who were in care.
134. My daughter was suffering from eczema and I told the about this. I had just reported MYO for abusing his position over me, and his wife was running this centre. I was subjected to huge scrutiny over my daughter's health.
135. My mental health suffered greatly at this time. I had no further visits or support from the social work department. I couldn't access any support services. I was very scared.
136. I attended Cornhill Hospital in Aberdeen as I had become very mentally unwell because of the whole situation of my divorce, possible previous abuse of my daughter by , and possible grooming of by older men in Aberdeen. My mental illness continued for a long time. While I was in Cornhill Hospital, I was approached by a member of the mental health team of social workers for the return of my files. I photocopied them, removed the bits that upset me, and returned them. I returned them because I felt backed into a corner. I wanted the files to prove the mistreatment I had suffered, but I could have lost my own children if I didn't give them back.



*Employment history*

137. After my mental health improved, I worked for a long time in the care sector, looking after the elderly. I was seventeen years in one care home and three years in another.
138. I took it too personally. I couldn't stand to see the elderly patients in distress. I broke one of the policies of the [REDACTED] the social care charity I was working for in Aberdeen. They took me to court over an allegation of stealing. Even though the court said there was no case to answer, Aberdeen is a small place. I got another job but then I told someone where I had worked previously and they found out about the earlier allegation and I lost my job.

**Records**

139. MYO [REDACTED] had given me my records. My sister found out about me getting my records and she was angry. I didn't get any of her records but she reported me to Glasgow and Aberdeen councils. I had two copies of my records and I kept one. From both sets, I removed details of my termination and letter from Mrs FKH [REDACTED] saying that they didn't want me anymore. I don't know where those bits are now. I would like to get a proper copy of my records.

**Reporting of abuse**

140. I did try to make a report when I went to the National Confidential Forum. The police came to see me but I was frightened by them. They wanted dates and specific details that I just don't have.

**Impact**

141. I realise that the Inquiry is investigating abuse that I suffered when I was in care. I continued to suffer abuse throughout my life after leaving care because the system

failed me emotionally, educationally, socially, and financially. This led to periods of depravation and being abused by others.

142. I am not even certain if I am FDG or FDG. They made a mistake about my date of birth when I was taken into care, I don't know if they made a mistake about my name too. I feel bad about myself. I feel guilty about things.
143. I was confused as an adult and had disabilities that were never diagnosed or acknowledged when I was growing up. It has made me feel shame, guilt, worthlessness, and a sense of disconnection from others. I would rather have died at the hands of my parents than go through the abuse I suffered.
144. I never knew why I was placed in care and I worried that it was something to do with my parents' behaviour towards us, and that I may repeat it and harm my own children. I made many wrong choices. I have four children who grew up exposed to the difficulties that I suffered from. Despite this, I do have a good relationship with my four daughters and my two grandchildren.
145. My experience in care affected my relationship with my siblings. I am no longer in contact with my brothers and ETB. My brother ETB feels like I am trying to blame the government for what happened to me whereas he feels that the government was providing for me, providing for me in some positive way. That's not how I feel.
146. Given my history, I don't trust doctors and decided to self-medicate with cannabis. I smoked all the time I was bringing up my children, to keep me calm. Cornhill hospital refused to help me when I was smoking cannabis. They prescribed diazepam, which I now get from my own GP. Cornhill hospital treated me for alcoholism. I was prescribed Antabuse.
147. I describe myself as being asexual. I have never had pleasure from any sexual encounter in my life. I believe that women should have pleasure from sex but it's



never been that way for me. I like the attention of men, but I never like to take it further.

148. I did previously go for counselling but I think the counsellor needed counselling after seeing me. After speaking to her, she left the room and I saw her throwing water on her face. When she returned, she told me to come back and see her again but I didn't.
149. I think that there should be CCTV in care facilities for children, except in the toilets. I know it would be expensive, but they can find the money for the police to wear body cameras so it could be done.
150. The system is prepared to give money to foster carers to look after children, but I think more should be done to provide money to parents who are struggling.
151. I feel that, even today, institutional abuse and bullying still occurs. Services that say they want to help still don't listen.
152. The system is unable to quantify the extent of the life-changing destruction that occurs through the misuse of power by people placed in authority over the vulnerable.

#### **Other information**

153. 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.

FDG

Signed.....

Dated..... 12/11/18 .....