

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

FGJ

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is FGJ. My date of birth is 1961. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I was born in Paisley. My birth mother's name is and my birth father's name is . I don't have contact with any of them. I have had contact with them in the past but I no longer do. What I remember from my childhood is that I had an older brother , an older sister and a younger sister . I don't know the age difference between , and myself. is about two years younger than me.
3. My earliest memory is that we lived in a tenement with my birth mother and father. There was only one bedroom. My older brother, older sister and I slept in the double bed in that room. My birth parents slept in an alcove in the living room. My younger sister was in a cot beside them. I do remember a lot of fights between my birth parents because we all had to choose whether we wanted her to stay or to leave. He ended up throwing her out.
4. I remember my younger sister and I were removed. The older ones were at school. I was about four years old and was about eighteen months. The toilet was on the landing and I remember the social work coming and removing us from that toilet because my birth father had went to work. He had locked us in while he went to work

in a pub. So we got chucked in the bathroom with some toys. I remember the social work putting the door in and removing us from there.

5.

The **FFY-FFZ** foster care, **██████████** Livingston

6.

We were taken somewhere in a van and then we were placed in foster care with a **FFY-FFZ** **██████████**. They had a son who was **██████████** called **██████████**. They ended up adopting another boy called **██████████** but we were fostered. We were in Glasgow when they fostered us but we all moved out to **██████████** Livingston because **FFZ** got a job.

7.

We went straight from Paisley to their address in **██████████**. After a year or two we moved to Livingston. There we all had our own room, so there must have been four bedrooms. **██████████** slept in their room, he was just a toddler. He was born in 1967 I think. Their son **██████████** was a couple of years older than me. He was born in 1958 or 1959. We got up to a lot of mischief together. We cut pillows and shook the feathers out of the window, but I always got the blame because I wasn't their child. Living with them was alright but I always seemed to get targeted for what **██████████** and I did. I must have liked it though because I didn't want to leave.

8.

I went to school in Livingston, I can't remember the name of it. Christmas was good. We visited their family in Glasgow, who we called gran and grandad. I think **FFY** just couldn't cope and I just seemed to be getting into trouble with **██████████**.

9.

We used to get slapped or smacked by **FFZ** **██████████**. **FFY** would say, "Wait till your father gets home". We got smacked on the backside. Sometimes we would get the belt. He would take it off his trousers. I wouldn't say it was regular, it happened a few times but in my eyes, at that time, I was naughty so I got smacked.

10.

One time I was in a cupboard, which had a bed in it. It was just a single bed with shelves at the top and they hid Easter eggs here. I had been eating them. I remember **FFZ** **██████████** counting them. They caught me and I got belted for that. It was stupid stuff. This was in **██████████**. There was a hospital near the flat. I

can't remember the name of it. I got into trouble, there was a box window, a bay, and they had a grate up at the front. [REDACTED] and I threw eggs out of the window, but I was covered in egg, so I got the blame. I didn't see it as abuse. I was naughty and got punished. I didn't have injuries, just a sore backside.

11. On another occasion we were sent to the shop. I think I was seven at this point. I had the carrier bag. [REDACTED] asked me to put two packets of biscuits in it. As we were walking out the shop the lady asked me to give her the bag and called the police because of the two packets of biscuits. I was driven back to [REDACTED] by the police. FFY [REDACTED] said she'd had enough of me. I was a troublesome child and bringing trouble to her house.
12. I was taken to Glasgow and put in front of a panel ten or twelve people. I remember putting peas in my ears because I didn't want to hear what they were saying. I stood in front of this group of people who decided I was to go to Dunclutha Children's home. I was about seven and a half.

Leaving foster care

13. I can't say I ever felt loved at the FFY-FFZ [REDACTED] I was definitely treated differently from their son [REDACTED] but it was better than Dunclutha. So I went to a panel in Glasgow, twelve people round a table and I went from there to Dunclutha. I think my clothes were in the car as the FFY-FFZ [REDACTED] went one way and I went in the other direction. Both of them were there. A social worker, I can't remember who, took me to Dunclutha in a car and over on the ferry. I felt horrendous. I was breaking my heart. I was a kid.
14. I can't remember the name of my social worker at first but it became Mr Richardson. I think he went on to become head of social work in Glasgow because he left me and I got told by another social worker that he had been promoted. I had him for a couple of years then I got someone else. I can't remember his name. I saw Mr Richardson a couple of times. A handful at the most.

Dunclutha Children's Home, Kirn, Dunoon

15. Dunclutha was a massive, big, white building up on a hill, looking across the water. It had a conservatory at the side of it and it had what we called two back huts made out of that corrugated stuff. The girls dormitories were downstairs. They were called Rose, Daffodil and Snowdrop. They put you in the different dorms according to your age. I went into Rose dormitory at first. I think it was for primary ages. When you were ready to go to high school you would go to Daffodil. High school girls went into Snowdrop. I think you went into it when you were ready to leave.

Routine at Dunclutha Children's Home, Kirn, Dunoon

First day

16. I was taken in the front door then taken in to be spoken to by RCN [REDACTED], who SNR [REDACTED] the home. I think a member of staff took me to see her. In my eyes she was an old woman but looking back at photographs she was probably in her late forties. I was told the do's and don'ts, just the rules, the girls were downstairs and the boys were upstairs. She told me there was a routine and that the staff would tell me what's expected of me. I wasn't in her room long and taken to a dormitory.
17. There were eight girls in Rose dormitory, ten to twelve in Daffodil and four girls in Snowdrop. Upstairs there were four dormitories for the boys. When you passed these there was a glass door, half wooden and half safety glass, that took you through to RCN [REDACTED]'s accommodation. There were toilets on the same floor as the boys then there was an attic with two bedrooms. One had two beds in it and the other had one bed. I think it was added to take more kids. After time it was for older girls who could be trusted. There was an annexe out the back for babies. I used to go over to help. There were about ten children there. There were seventy of us altogether in the home.
18. On the ground floor, when you passed Snowdrop dormitory there were cubicles, two showers and four toilets. When you went into Snowdrop there was a bath and a

toilet. The girls in Snowdrop could use that. That was the only bath. You passed Rose dormitory and there was a corridor, you walked down this and passed a medical room. You turned a corner and there was a large kitchen. Across from that was RCN's office and sitting room. You went along another corridor, which led into a TV room, which was split by a partition. There was the TV room on one side and four dining tables on the other. You went through a door and there was a library, homework type area, which was partitioned also and another four tables, dining area. You then went downstairs to a play area.

19. At the back of the play area was FFX's room. He was an overseer. He wore grey trousers, a black blazer and sometimes had a belt around his neck. The type they use in schools. If you ever did anything wrong you were sent to FFX. He decided whether you were to be belted or get another punishment, like just a lecture. He just wandered about upstairs and downstairs making his presence known. Everybody was scared of him. He would be in his forties or early fifties. His full name was FFX FFX.

20. RCN was SNR and Sister FGI was SNR then there were the staff. We called them nurse and then whatever their surname was. There was RCS, Crilly, RAS and Trap. Those are the names I remember. They wore nurses uniforms. Sister FGI wore a green uniform. RCN wore a's hat. The home was run by Glasgow City Council or Strathclyde Council. I don't know why they wore nurses uniforms. It didn't make sense to me.

21. There were two handymen who worked at the home. There was Alec, I don't know his surname. He drove us into town and to school. The other was PQZ or PQZ. He didn't drive. I remember either FFX or Alec driving the mini bus. PQZ's wife worked in the kitchen at the home. There were a couple of other male staff but I can't remember their names. They weren't significant to me. There was a cottage up the back, I was never in it, and a couple of staff would stay there if they were working day shift, back shift, day shift, back shift. If not they would get the ferry home to Gourrock or Greenock.

22. I can't remember who showed me my dormitory. I was shown downstairs and told I wasn't to go upstairs. I was shown where the bathroom was as well as the shower room and where the shoes were polished.
23. I remember my first night I was taken for a shower. You went with girls from your dorm. You had to leave your dorm with a towel wrapped around you. I was standing there and a member of staff just ripped the towel from me. It was degrading. I can't remember her name. This was once I had got to the shower room. Everybody else had dropped their towels. I was told, "You are all the same". When you come from your own house to that, it was really upsetting. I picked my towel back up and she went ballistic, shouting and bawling at me. There were no shower curtains so that they could see that you were cleaning yourself properly.
24. After the shower we went down to the dining area and got toast or a sandwich. We all had a specific bedtime according to our age.

Mornings and bedtime

25. Morning staff came round and got you up. I was a bed wetter. Depending on who was on it was fine. They would take your sheet off, strip the bed and make it up. On a handful of other times, I would have to soak my sheets in the laundry out the back. I was told it wasn't someone else's job to rinse my pee. Nurse Carol Crilly and RCS were there, but I'm not sure if it was them that did this. She didn't stay long. She was a young nurse. There was another member of staff who made me wash my sheets. I can't remember her name. There was quite a high turnover of staff in there. So it would depend on who was on shift who would get you up. RCS was another nurse I remember. She didn't make me rinse the sheets.
26. You would then clean your teeth, wash, get dressed and ready for school. You would then go to the dining room for breakfast. After breakfast you would get your school bag and line up at the front door. Everybody lined up and got a spoonful of tonic. I don't know what it was, it was vile. Whoever was in charge of getting you out to

school gave you the tonic. They said it set you up for the day. I practiced holding it in my mouth and spitting it out as soon as I got outside.

Mealtimes / Food

27. Everybody mixed at breakfast. Family got to eat together. At that time my sister wasn't in there with me. She came after I had been there for about a year and was in the same dormitory as me. The food was ok, it wasn't disgusting. You hated certain days when you knew it was cabbage or brussel sprouts. If you didn't eat it, it was plated down to you at tea time. Again, not all members of staff did that. It depended on who was on duty. FFX was the worst. It wasn't put down to you the next day, you would start afresh. If you didn't eat what was put down to you, you got nothing else. The children learned to bond and look after each other, so I'd give someone what I didn't like and I'd eat something that I liked and they didn't.
28. There was always two members of staff wandering about the dining area during meal times. The food came through on a trolley, plated up and a staff member would put it down to you. You didn't get a choice of food. I was chunky so the food must have been ok.

Washing / bathing

29. Shower time was by dormitory. You had a shower every night. If you were a bed wetter you had a shower in the morning too. Initially I can't remember if they asked who had wet the bed, but eventually they did. In the middle of the night they would wake you up at midnight two o'clock and four o'clock to go to the toilet. The bed wetter's would also go to the showers by dormitory. Nurse Trap was a night shift worker. I can't remember the name of the other one, and there were another two who I didn't like. I can't remember their names.
30. Nurse Trap was really nice. She told me to bang my head on the pillow three times and say, "I'm not going to wet the bed", three times and I wouldn't wet the bed. For whatever reason it worked most of the time. I wet the bed when I was with my

natural parents because I remember moving around trying to find a dry spot in the bed.

Clothing / uniform

31. When we went to Kirn primary school we wore a uniform of a skirt, blouse, tie and cardigan. I think it was black or navy. The home got that for us. After school we would change into play clothes. There was a woman on the boys floor, I can't remember her name, it may have been Ina, who had a sewing room. She made skirts for the girls and shorts for the younger boys. They were horrible. When we went to high school I can't remember where we got our clothes but they were provided for us. I don't remember being taken shopping. I was only ever down the town once to buy myself a pair of shoes.
32. When we were older we got to go along to the laundry and clean our own stuff. When we were younger there were baskets in the dormitories to put dirty clothes in and they were folded on your bed when you got back from school.

School

33. The home had a mini bus and they would pile the youngsters in for school. We went to Kirn primary school. You would get brought back down to the home for lunch, back to school then back to the home and changed out of school clothes and into play clothes. Everybody went out to play. The home had massive grounds.
34. Dunclutha was in Kirn, about two miles from Dunoon. When you got to primary six or primary seven you could walk to school. It was about a mile away. I got up to mischief at school. I did ok but I was rebellious. I got the belt many times. When I got older I got tougher. I wasn't like that when I went into care, I got like that. It was survival of the fittest.
35. I went to Dunoon Grammar high school. Other kids would call us 'homers', but we were used to that. We weren't treated any differently by the teachers. My behaviour

at high school was ok. I was part of the chess club, I liked it. I did get the belt at high school, but that was the norm then.

Leisure time

36. After school you could play in the grounds. We made our own entertainment most of the time. There was a tree swing and there was a massive field and it had a park in it. There were either two or three swings and I can't remember if there was a chute or a climbing frame. The boys and girls mixed. You weren't allowed out of the grounds. At the front there was a walkway leading up to the home. At the back there was a drive. FFX had a big bell and he would ring it if it was time to come in for tea and shower time.
37. There was a room with books in it, where you would do homework. There was a play room too. We also went swimming. When you were eleven or twelve you could go into town. We went to the cinema, but we had to go to the Saturday cinema during the day as we weren't allowed out at night.

Pocket money

38. After a few years RCN left and the home was SNR Mr and Mrs FGG-SPO. The pocket money changed when the FGG-SPO came. Before they did, every Saturday you stood outside RCN's office. She had a book in front of her and if you did anything wrong you had money deducted from your pocket money. You would get the remainder and had to sign the book confirming that you got it. She would tell you if you were heard swearing by FFX or something like that.
39. The young boys had shirt tails and if they were hanging out of their trousers the staff would cut them off, or if they had wiped their noses on their sleeves they would have the sleeve cut off. They would then lose pocket money to pay for shirts. As you got older you would look out for the young boys and take them to the toilet and wipe the sleeves with water.

40. I can't remember how much pocket money we were meant to get. When I was there it changed to decimal. FFX had a shop at the back. He must have went to the cash and carry or something because it was all penny sweets. The younger ones bought them. The older ones could go down to Dunoon. They would be dropped off in the mini bus and told a time to meet up. I think you were ten or eleven when you could do this.
41. If someone didn't have any pocket money or stepped out of line that week you would be driven somewhere, dropped off about nine in the morning as a punishment and told to walk a mile or two miles and be picked up by a member of staff. I was on that walk quite often.

Trips / Holidays

42. I remember once going to Islay for a holiday. It was on a farm. That was the only holiday I went on while I was there. We went in a group of ten or twelve and a couple of members of staff. I can't remember who they were. I think one group would go for a week, then another group after that.
43. One girl I was friends with at high school, [REDACTED], was going to England with her mum and dad and they asked if I wanted to go with them. Her dad asked the home and I got to go with them for the weekend. I was about thirteen when I went.

Birthdays and Christmas

44. At Christmas time you got a Christmas dinner. On Christmas morning we had to sit on the stairs, there was a huge staircase, and someone would dress up as Santa. You would get your name shouted out and you went up for a gift. One year I got a perfume set, but someone said I was too young for it, I was twelve, so I got a post office set. There were that many kids in there, nobody complained about it. It was Christmas. There was a tree in the entrance and a tree outside. You got to keep your present. You had a locker and a cupboard where you kept your clothes or anything that was yours.

45. When it was your birthday you got a saucer with dolly mixtures in it. One year I got a snow globe and a Tunnock's teacake with a candle in it. We did get a gift for our birthday. When the FGG-SPO came and RCN left you got a cake on your birthday and everybody sang 'Happy Birthday' and got a bit of your cake. I don't know how old I was when Mr and Mrs FGG-SPO came. RCN was there a while because when I was eleven I babysat for someone in the town that she knew. So I went there when I was seven and a half and she was there when I was eleven.

Religious instruction

46. In Dunclutha we went to church and Sunday School every Sunday. I wore white gloves, a yellow dress, white ankle socks and sandals. I was the only one who was made to wear a yellow dress and I hated it. After church we would be outside playing for the rest of the day.
47. There were a lot of bed and breakfasts and hotels on the sea front and people would sit outside throughout the summer. Every morning we would walk along the front and had to sing as we went past them and they would wave to us. The staff would walk us round the back of Dunoon and back to the home.

Work/Chores

48. When you were young you didn't have to make your own bed, unless you wet the bed. Once my sister was there they got rid of the single beds and got bunk beds. I remember if you had a sibling the young one was on the bottom and the older one on top. If the younger sibling didn't make their bed right, the older one had to do it, even if it made you late for school.
49. We used to have to polish the shoes of the people in our dorm. This was done every night. There was a cupboard downstairs with shoe racks and two of us sat on a stool, one put the polish on and the other took it off. This was done on a rota basis.

50. Sometimes you helped with the dishes. There was a rota for this too. The staff washed and one of us dried, while another put them away. I think you had to do it every two weeks. We cleaned the dorm at the weekend. We didn't do any cleaning during the week but there wasn't cleaners in at the weekend so they expected us to pull our weight. It was just tidying up and Hoovering.

Visits

51. I only remember Mr Richardson visiting me a handful of times, or less. He would ask me how I was doing. I told him once about a beating I got from a member of staff and nothing happened. It was Nurse FGH. She wore a pink uniform, I don't know why. I annoyed her at a dining table. I can't remember what I said but she punched me in the back, lots of times. I had a massive bruise on my shoulder. I was ten or eleven. I was in primary school and we were in for lunch. She pulled me away from the kids and into the TV room and told me to learn some respect. The other member of staff would have seen it. I don't know who that was.
52. I remember telling Mr Richardson. The bruise was away by this time. He asked what happened and said he would speak to RCN. I don't know if he did, but nothing happened. So I never told anyone anything else, because they never listened to you.
53. I didn't go to any more children's panels and don't remember any reviews. I remember a man came in once. I don't know who he was. He came in with a book with photos and asked me if I knew FFY-FFZ weren't my real parents and if I remembered I had a mum and dad. It was just him and I in the room. I don't know what that was about. I was about eleven at the time.
54. The FGG-SPO installed a payphone outside the girls toilets. It was for us, instead of going to the office and asking to use the phone. We would use our pocket money to use the payphone to learn us the value of money. It rang one day and I answered it and it was my foster mother FFY. She had been given the wrong number. She was calling to ask how we were doing. She asked if she could come for a visit and I told

her she would have to ask the FGG-SPO, so I gave her their number. I was thirteen and a half.

55. FFY-FFZ then came to visit me about two or three times after that. The only contact I'd had before that was a letter from her a couple of months after being in Dunclutha telling me that she couldn't cope and I was causing her too much heartache. I didn't hear from her again until I was thirteen and a half. They asked if we wanted to come back and we did but I found out it was for the allowance.

Healthcare

56. I got a check-up when I got to the home. Not on the same day that I arrived but soon after. The staff would treat you for minor cuts and things, there was a medical room. You were taken to the local doctor or dentist if required. Whenever we needed injections we would be taken to the doctor.

Running away

57. If you ran away you got punished. We ran away lots of times and you would get the belt from FFX or Mr FGG. We would get on the ferry but the police were always waiting on the other side.
58. At night time the home was locked up, front and back door. Not the dorm doors as we had to go to the toilet during the night. One night during the summer holidays, when I was in Snowdrop dormitory, four of us decided to run away for the night. There were French doors and we went out through them. We were going into the woods to play. We put the pillows under the bed so the staff would think we were in bed. If they looked in they would see the bumps and leave us alone. I forgot they would come to waken me up for peeing the bed. They must have heard us giggling or come to wake me up and discovered us missing. We tried to get in the French doors when we were tired but the staff had locked them.

59. They left us outside all night. We huddled up in the front doorway. Some of the boys came down the front fire escape and joined us. We were chapping the door but they just ignored us. They let us in when the milk cart came up at six in the morning. One of the night staff let us in. I can't remember her name. She said, "That'll teach you".

Abuse at Dunclutha Children's Home, Kilm, Dunoon

60. I was hit with a belt many times on the hand and the back of my legs. I was hit with wooden handled brushes, hair brushes. I'd be getting my hair brushed and if you stepped out of line you were smacked over the back of the head or legs with that. It was whatever staff who were on duty that tended to this. I got it a few times from Mr FGG. We called FFX's belt, 'black Bob'. It had two fingers, like straps. I can't recall the first time I got it from FFX. It didn't happen every day but I would get it at least once or twice a month. You would get hit three or four times. Other children got it too.
61. Sometimes we would go into the back hut and FFX put boxing gloves on us and tell us to fight if we'd had a disagreement. It happened once with me and [REDACTED]. He told us to fight it out. Boys were sitting on one side of the hut and girls on the other. We wouldn't do it so he lifted my hand with the glove on it and smacked [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] across the face. I was aged between eleven and thirteen. So we started throwing punches at each other. I ended up on the floor obviously. We made up after it because we didn't want to fight in the first place. FFX did this on a regular basis with kids.
62. I worked in a shop on the beach called [REDACTED]. One time someone came in and told me my sister had been put over a stool in the back hut and belted on the backside. I never witnessed it. My sister said FFX did it because she dangled a young boy by the ankles over a railing.
63. Staff would send us to FFX to sort us out. If he wasn't on shift the staff would hit you on the back of the head, or there was one member of staff, Nurse RAS, who would

hit you over the back of the head with a comb. It wasn't sore. We would laugh at it. I liked her.

64. If your face fitted and you conformed then I suppose you survived some of the abuse.
65. Mr FGG [REDACTED] belted me a few times. I was flippant. On one occasion, I was in the dining room with a few others and we were having a dough fight, taking the dough out of rolls and throwing it at each other. A member of staff came through the door carrying a tray of dishes and was hit on the head with a roll. All the dishes fell and smashed. We all got sent to see Mr FGG [REDACTED]. There were young ones there, five to eight year olds, and [REDACTED] and me. We were the oldest. We didn't know who threw the roll but [REDACTED] and I took the blame. We got three or four of the belt on the hands from Mr FGG [REDACTED] because we both said it was us that threw the roll. I was twelve or thirteen when this happened.
66. Mr and Mrs FGG-SPO [REDACTED] had a son and daughter, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. They used to get us in a lot of trouble. They would tell their parents everything we did. We obviously resented them. They came in with the best of gear on. We wouldn't include them because they would 'grass' us up if we went for a cigarette in the woods and things like that. We were told by the FGG-SPO [REDACTED] to include them.
67. We had a shoe fight one night. We were in an upstairs dormitory. There was my sister and me, [REDACTED] and her little sister, I can't remember her name, and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. The young ones were gathering all the shoes they could and giving them to the older ones to throw at each other. We were wearing wedges at the time. Mr FGG [REDACTED] came in and my wedge shoe hit him. He made me stand on one foot on the landing until he saw fit. I was about thirteen. It happened about eight or half eight at night and I was there until they were all asleep. I had to stand on one foot and my arms out. It seemed like forever. It might have been for half an hour, but it seemed forever.

68. There was a staff member who would hit you on the back of the legs with a black plimsoll for being cheeky. I can't remember her name. I can't remember how long she was there but that's what she used, a black plimsoll, like Nurse RAS used the comb. She would just pick up one of the kids plimsolls and hit you with it.
69. You learned to keep away from certain staff, like Sister FGI. She never lifted her hand but she was cruel with words. She said things to me like, "You're going to end up in the Gorbals with ten kids running around and a fag hanging out your mouth", and "You'll amount to nothing". I was classed as the ringleader and if we got into trouble it was my fault. She plugged away at me all the time, "You're to blame", "You're the one to get them into trouble". She is on the [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] and mentions how she remembers certain kids, but not me. A lot of kids that went there after me had good experiences so they've shared it on this [REDACTED], but a lot of us from my time have went on [REDACTED] and said how it was for us. I put a comment on it saying it wasn't that good there.
70. Mr FGG belted me but Mrs [REDACTED] never lifted her hand to me. I've been back to Dunoon every single year for the last fifteen years. I've taken my grandsons. Dunoon doesn't hold any bad memories for me, I love Dunoon. It was the home that had bad memories for me, the staff that had bad memories for me.
71. POZ [REDACTED] was a handyman. He also owned [REDACTED] shop I worked in. He sexually abused me. I honestly can't remember where it happened the first time. It was regular. It was full intercourse, ejaculating him and oral sex. It was from when I was nine or ten until I left the home. It happened in his workshop at his flat and in his flat when his wife was at work. He lived in Kirn, above a shop. It had a living room, a bathroom and a kitchen, which had a recess where there was a double bed. Most times it happened in there. It also happened in [REDACTED].
72. Because I'd worked in [REDACTED] with him, he would say he needed stock and lock up the shop and we would go along to the flat. Other times I would go along to the workshop or the flat because I'd had a bad day at the home. He told me that him and

his wife were going to foster me. I realised later that this wasn't true. He would give me five pound or ten pound pocket money to shut me up.

73. He had rowing boats on the beach. There was a big shed, like a garage, at the back of the flat where he repaired the boats. I was always on my own when it happened. I don't know if he abused other kids there. On the group chat someone said the main abusers were FGG and FFX and that pervert PQZ I can't remember who it was. FGG and FFX didn't sexually abuse me, PQZ was the only one who did this. It happened two or three times a month.
74. PQZ only worked as a handyman at Dunclutha during the winter months. In the summer he would be in [REDACTED]. It happened in the grounds of Dunclutha too, in a hut. The kids used to sit in it and hide in it and have cigarettes there. There was no door on the hut but it was away from the house. PQZ would have been in his late fifties, early sixties. His wife was a tiny little thing. I know they are both dead now. FFX and FGG are dead too.
75. I have found out from other people I have spoken to [REDACTED] that they were sexually abused. I thought that was just happening to me. [REDACTED] Physical abuse was belted with a brush, the belt, a comb or a plimsoll.

Reporting of abuse at Dunclutha Children's Home, Kirn, Dunoon

76. After telling Mr Richardson about the beating I got from Nurse FGH and nothing being done about it, I decided not to tell anyone else about the sexual abuse by PQZ. PQZ said I would go to a List D school and I won't see my sister, so I just shut up. I suppose I felt needed. I don't know, I know I didn't like it and I told him. He just told me it will be fine, I'll be ok.
77. I didn't tell anyone about any of the abuse I suffered from FFX, Mr FGG or PQZ. I didn't trust the staff and I believed what PQZ was saying about where I would go. He only said this after the first couple of times then he said he would foster

me and that he was still asking his wife and that she was thinking about it. I think she knew in her own head what her husband was doing and she hated me.

Leaving Dunclutha Children's Home, Kirn, Dunoon

78. I got called into the office when I came back from school after giving FFY [REDACTED] the FGG-SPO number. I was told the children weren't getting to answer the payphone anymore because I shouldn't have taken that call. He asked if I was ok with FFY [REDACTED] and FFZ [REDACTED] visiting. I said yes. They came and we showed them around the home and went down to the town for our tea. [REDACTED] was there too. I think [REDACTED] came. I think their son [REDACTED] was in the Royal Navy by this time.
79. FFY [REDACTED] and FFZ [REDACTED] came back again, then after three or four visits they asked if we wanted to stay with them at the weekend. We were up for that. FFZ [REDACTED] came for us himself. We got the ferry from Dunoon to Gourrock, then the train to Glasgow Central. We then walked to Glasgow Queen Street and got the train to Haymarket in Edinburgh. We then got a train to Kirkcaldy and then a bus from there to Methil. He did the journey twice, showing me how to do it then I did it myself with my sister. I was fourteen when we were doing this. The staff would pick us up off the ferry on the way back on Sunday night. This was every third weekend.

The FFY-FFZ foster care, [REDACTED] Methil

80. I don't remember how it came about that we went back. I just remember them asking if we wanted to and I said yes. I don't remember a meeting with social work, coming to tell us we were leaving. I just remember FFZ [REDACTED] coming and getting us and we never went back. I think we packed what we had. We had about three outfits each.
81. I remember how I felt leaving a lot of my friends but I was happy leaving Dunclutha because of what had happened. It was a relief. I wanted away from what was happening, although a lot of it had calmed down by the time I left. There was still

stuff going on but maybe it wasn't as bad because I was older, but I know I didn't want to be there.

82. By this time the FFY-FFZ were staying at [REDACTED] Methil. There was FFY and FFZ, [REDACTED], my sister and me. I shared a room with [REDACTED]. The house had three bedrooms.
83. I picked up very quickly that it was about money with FFY. None of them were alcoholics when I was with them as a kid but FFY was a bad alcoholic now, to the point that she would hide her bottle of vodka in with the dirty washing or in cupboards. FFZ [REDACTED] worked in the [REDACTED]. FFY didn't work. FFZ was an evangelist, he was right into the church and we rarely seen him and FFY sank into the bottle.
84. I went to Kirkland high school and [REDACTED] went to Aberhill primary school. Both were in Methil. I covered up FFY's drinking because I didn't want to go back to Dunclutha. I would be kept off school to help her with the housework, wash the walls or paint the ceiling. I think FFZ knew, because she was drunk, she was always stinking of alcohol. I hated the school anyway because I hadn't built a friendship up. All the kids had come from primary to secondary together. I arrived in third year.
85. I knew a cheque came every month for them keeping us. I had no contact with the social work during this time. How I knew about the cheque was that I used to go to the shop along the street and get two carrier bags of groceries. FFY gave me a note to hand over and it was pleading that she had two girls from foster care and she only got paid monthly for them. I read the note. I hated her from that day onwards. The girl that served me was in my class and she told everybody in the school.
86. There was a lot of arguments between FFZ and FFY and I'd get stuck in the middle of them. They both drank whisky. He would drink a couple of glasses and she would drink the bottle. They argued all the time. I blew up one day and said the minute I'm sixteen I'm out of here. Anything I had for the FFY-FFZ had gone. The people I knew from when I was younger were gone.

87. FFZ never abused me but he made me feel uncomfortable because he would have his hand down his trousers 'massaging his ego', for want of a better word. He didn't abuse me or [REDACTED] that I'm aware of, but he went on to abuse my oldest daughter [REDACTED] years later.
88. I had got a job when I was sixteen at [REDACTED], it's called [REDACTED] now. I fell out with FFY before I left and stayed at FFZ's sisters in Glasgow for a fortnight. When I came back FFY her son [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were in Anstruther. FFZ was still working and staying in Methil. FFY sent her son [REDACTED] on his motor bike to get my dig money and I refused to give her it. She was taking all my money and giving me bus fares because the money she was getting for me had stopped when I reached sixteen. He said she would kick me out. I told the father FFZ when he came home from work and said my dig money was on the mantelpiece but he told me to keep it.
89. I had no contact with my birth parents or [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] when I was with my foster parents. I think my dad took [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] up to Aberdeen as he had family there. I think my birth mother stayed in Glasgow for a while then moved to England somewhere. I found out about my birth parents and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] when I was eighteen or nineteen and I found them.

Life after being in care

90. I stayed with the FFY-FFZ until I was sixteen and then left. I was there about a year and a half then moved in with my friend [REDACTED] and her mum [REDACTED]. She spoke with FFY and it was ok. They lived in [REDACTED] too, right across the park from the FFY-FFZ. [REDACTED] remained with FFY and FFZ
91. I kept in touch with [REDACTED] and we would meet in the park. One time she told me she had been beaten up by FFY so I told the social work that FFY was an alcoholic and to get [REDACTED] out. I told [REDACTED] I'd done that and she wasn't happy. [REDACTED] had got me a little job and I came home one day and FFY was standing at her door

shouting abuse at me, saying, "You don't know what you've done". [REDACTED] had went back to Dunclutha.

92. When I was eighteen I got my own flat in [REDACTED] Methil. I don't know if anyone told me I wasn't in the care system any more. I went back and forward to Dunclutha visiting [REDACTED]. I kept in touch with the social worker who was looking after [REDACTED], I can't remember her name. She was from Glasgow social work office, or Strathclyde. I asked her to check my flat so that I could get [REDACTED] to stay with me, which she did. [REDACTED] came to stay with me when she was fifteen. The social worker got me bedding for her. I was working in [REDACTED] in Kirkcaldy at the time. They left her with me on a trial basis, making sure [REDACTED] went to school every day. If it worked she could stay so she did.
93. I came out of care then I took [REDACTED] out to live with me later on. I wrote to the social work to take [REDACTED] out of care and I asked about my older brother and sister as I was curious. The social work replied saying my sister [REDACTED] lived in Glasgow and wanted to meet me. I went to meet her and her family and they asked where [REDACTED] was. I told them she was still in the home and they asked to meet her, so I took them over to meet her and that's when I met my natural family.
94. When I first met [REDACTED] the phone rang and she said, "It's my ma, she wants to talk to you". So I went on the phone and the first thing she said was, "How old are you?". I hated her from that call as I thought, "Why do you not know". So I had a conversation with her on the phone and she said, "I'll maybe meet you one day", and I said, "Yes, whatever". [REDACTED] then invited my brother [REDACTED] down to meet me. While meeting them and visiting them my birth mother phoned and another time my birth father phoned. He was in Glenrothes and asked to meet me in a pub. I met him there. He just tried to push money towards me because he was drunk.
95. I was over the moon meeting [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. It was nice to catch up with them again but through time we drifted apart again. We didn't have a bond. I was keen to meet my dad but he was drunk. He had a daughter from his second wife and a step son that was hers and I met them. But my birth father was violent. It took me right

back to that bedroom when I was four because I saw him being violent in that family environment. I just cut myself right away from it. He is dead now as far as I know. I was seventeen or eighteen when I met him and it was about two years later that I cut all contact.

96. My mum moved back from wherever she was to Glasgow. I drove a motor bike then. I drove to [REDACTED]'s and she said, "My ma wants to meet you", so I put her on the back of my motor bike and we went to my birth mother's house. Dunclutha had its bad bits but we were brought up with discipline. I wasn't used to people swearing and dirty cups and dog poo on the carpet and stuff. So when I walked in to her house I was disgusted.
97. [REDACTED] wanted to meet our birth mother, so I took her. This was when [REDACTED] was living with me. We came back to Fife but after a few months [REDACTED] said she wanted to stay with her birth mother, so she moved to Glasgow with her. I stayed clear, I was working in a residential children's home [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was with her for a year and I received a letter asking me to come and get her because our birth mother was battering her. I was pregnant at the time so couldn't use my motor bike. I went through on the train and she showed me the bruises. I told her to get her stuff and come with me. She said she couldn't because she was terrified. I told her I was going to stay with [REDACTED] in Anniesland and gave her twenty pounds for a taxi. She turned up at the door next morning, or the same night. Half an hour later my birth mother was at the door, kicking it and demanding [REDACTED] came back up the road with her. There was a stand-off between my mum and me. She was just a bully. So I pushed her out the way and [REDACTED] went to the police. The police came and told my birth mother that [REDACTED] was old enough to come back to Fife. So I brought her home with me. I had no feelings towards my mum, towards any of them.
98. So [REDACTED] had went to Dunclutha, then stayed with me then our birth mother, she battered her so she moved back in with me. I stayed on the thirteenth floor and I was pregnant with my oldest daughter. I had my daughter and when I got back home my neighbours told me that [REDACTED] was having boys back to the flat. We had a big argument and she moved into a flat with a pal. She was old enough to leave anyway.

99. I worked at [REDACTED] for a year. I got pregnant when I was twenty. [REDACTED] was born in [REDACTED] 1982 and I got married in 1982. The marriage lasted just a couple of months. I threw him out as he was coming home with love bites on his neck.
100. I went from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] in Kirkcaldy. I was a support worker, care assistant at [REDACTED]. I didn't have any qualifications, those came later. There was a lot of in-house training with the kids. I wanted to work in care because of my background in care. I always said I would try to make a difference. I didn't get the job at first, I was very young, but I saw they were advertising again, applied and got an interview. They said they would give me a chance. There were about twelve children aged between five to fifteen. It was residential.
101. [REDACTED] was born in [REDACTED] 1982 so I stayed there until July but after my six months maternity leave I called [REDACTED] and told them I wasn't coming back. I didn't think I could leave my daughter because her dad and I had split up. When she was in nursery at four years old I got a YTS job in a community church. They had a playgroup thing on in the morning for kids and afternoon sessions for after school clubs. I would pick [REDACTED] up from nursery and bring her back there. I did a year at the church.
102. I met my second husband [REDACTED] and went on to have my other two daughters with him. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I stayed at home and did child minding from there. This was in Buckhaven. [REDACTED] was born in [REDACTED], 1987 and [REDACTED] and I got married in [REDACTED] 1987. [REDACTED] was born in 1990. When [REDACTED] was about eleven months old I got a job at [REDACTED] nursing home in Kirkcaldy. I stayed there for about a year to eighteen months. I then got a job at [REDACTED] children's residential unit in Glenrothes. I was with [REDACTED] for seven years. We divorced in 1994 or 1995.
103. I worked in [REDACTED] for a number of years. [REDACTED] was on continental shifts, eighteen days on then eighteen days off, so I took a relief post and would work shifts when he was at home. It was in that time that our marriage deteriorated. [REDACTED] was a jealous guy and he would pick me up from work and see I was working with guys. Our

marriage went downhill and he just kept throwing up what I'd told him about my time in care.

104. When [REDACTED] was about two years old, [REDACTED] was five and [REDACTED] about nine I asked [REDACTED] for a break and he said no. He said he knew that I'd put him out so it wasn't happening. I had a party and some of my friends brought partners. I told them there was no men allowed and they could go to the pub and come back in a few hours when everyone would be ready to come home. They all came back and one of my friends was going to stay the night. I had an airbed and we all mucked about blowing it up. My brother in law and I were on the floor trying to blow it up and [REDACTED] was jealous. He took it I was having an affair with him. The next day he assaulted me so I called the police and got him out.
105. [REDACTED] and I split and I carried on working at [REDACTED] [REDACTED] would pick up the kids and take them to his mums. He was living there. My sister and one of my best friends were helping with the kids too. There was no chance of [REDACTED] and I getting back together. He stalked me, followed me home from work and slept in his car in the drive. This happened for about a year then he met another woman. He then stopped taking the kids, trying to put barriers up for me working, but my sister and friend still helped me out.
106. My oldest daughter was hanging about in Buckhaven. One day she was needing the toilet and went into [REDACTED] FFZ [REDACTED], in her eyes [REDACTED] FFZ [REDACTED] was her grandad. [REDACTED] FFY [REDACTED] died with alcohol poisoning or her liver or something when I left and [REDACTED] FFZ [REDACTED] had moved to Buckhaven. He started touching [REDACTED] up. She didn't tell me for months. We got the police involved and he admitted it and was put on the sex offenders register. She was about eleven. One day I was giving [REDACTED] FFZ [REDACTED] and his friend a lift to a night out. [REDACTED] was sitting on [REDACTED] FFZ [REDACTED]'s knee. I looked in the mirror and [REDACTED] FFZ [REDACTED] had his hands between [REDACTED]'s legs. I told him to get out and that's when it all came out. I had been in contact with him up until then, maybe once a month.
107. Before I split up with [REDACTED] I got a call from [REDACTED] and she told me that [REDACTED] [REDACTED] her daughter, was going to get put in a home. [REDACTED] had split up with

her husband and was living in England. Her daughter was in Glasgow. I asked her why and she said she didn't know. I said she wasn't going in a home and I took her. She was twelve. She stayed with me until she was sixteen. She still had contact with her mum and dad, mainly through the phone. [REDACTED] started seeing a guy called Pete Jack.

108. When I split up from [REDACTED], [REDACTED] was babysitting my kids. This was in my house and sometimes in her house if I was a dayshift. She then got pregnant with Pete Jack's child. She was still babysitting for me but one night I came home and he was there himself. I asked where [REDACTED] was and was told she had went down the road as she was pregnant and tired. For a couple of years they were still babysitting while I was working.
109. In 2010, all my daughters were older then and they got a woman in that did readings. She apparently told them all individually that they had a secret and they need to talk about it. She didn't know they were sisters. I was working at the time. I got a phone call the next morning saying my oldest and youngest daughters had been arrested. They had been released and came to my house and told me that Pete Jack, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]'s boyfriend, had been sexually abusing them all. Apparently it started when [REDACTED] was six and [REDACTED] was three, until [REDACTED] was thirteen or fourteen. I knew nothing about it because I was too busy trying to make it right in the children's home.
110. Pete Jack got seven years in the jail. He got released last year but put back in for breaching his bail conditions. He had went to Perth court. FFZ [REDACTED] went to Kirkcaldy sheriff court after abusing [REDACTED].
111. Over the years I have done lots of training. I have my SVQ3 in Health & Social Care, I've done Child Care Phase one & two and Child Protection, all to work in residential care. I went on to be a senior in the last place I was in at [REDACTED] I was there for about six and a bit years.
112. The difference now to when I was in care is that the kids can call the social work. The staff would call the social work and you'd sit down with the kids. We do group

therapy with them. We're very hands on with the kids. When my kids came home from school I would always ask, "How was your day?". I still do it with my grandson. That was never there for us.

113. I can say that there was no love in Dunclutha. Some of the staff cared and there were others just there for their wage packet. Kids have choices now. They have a voice. They have rights. We didn't. There were no children's rights then. There is more hands on and more opportunities for kids in care. They have their own rooms. They aren't living on top of each other. Their rooms are personalised. There's a lot in place that wasn't in place when I was in care. There was no-one to guide us. There was no loving environment. That had an effect on us. That would have made a big difference.

Impact

114. I have lack of trust and insecurities. Physical touch, hugs are very hard to accept. I freeze. I very rarely use the word love. I am protective with my grandchildren, especially joining clubs where changing or showering takes place. I sometimes withdraw socially because of anxieties. I've had failed relationships, which were most probably my fault, through insecurities and lack of trust. I choose friends wisely, again through trust and loyalty.
115. I'm very good at saying I'm fine. We're all good at putting on a front with a smile. No-one knows what's going on behind that smile or when your left with your own thoughts.
116. I struggle to tell my kids I love them. I feel their pain. I was too busy throwing myself into other things to stop me thinking about what happened to me, to not see what happened to them. My daughters and I are a very close knit family but I struggle with the love kind of stuff and I think that's from being in care. I thought my kids were with someone that I trusted. I was too busy looking after me and others. What happened to me I think, I was doing right for the kids in care and I wasn't looking out for my own kids.

117. My time in care cost me everything, my marriages, everything. I don't have trust for anyone, in particular men. I give up as quick as I can. I'm no good with intimate relationships. I give up. I've not been in a relationship for years. The minute I see that things are not right, I throw the towel in. I have a lot of male friends but I'm no good at relationships.
118. I buried my time in care for a long time. Even when I was working in care, I was there for the kids. The abuse side never came into my head. It came about when my kids went to court with Pete Jack. It came flooding back then. Then I buried it again. I then heard about the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry, I had guided kids through speaking, I guided my daughter's through the court system, it was time for me to have a voice. It brought more back about the sexual abuse at Dunclutha, physical too, but more the sexual abuse.
119. I became a no-nonsense person. I wasn't going to take any 'crap' in life, I was looking for something better. I think as a family we have been through so much, way before my kids came along, and when they did come along. Some things could have been so different. Was it because I was in Dunclutha, I don't know. Was it because I was in foster care, I don't know. I believe now that is the case because of my experience and training of working in the care system.
120. I think it has affected my life and the life of my kids. [REDACTED] was the quietest out of them all then went right off the rails. She was getting into trouble with the police. She had a son and one day knocked on my door and said, "I can't do this anymore", when he was five. I have got him full time. She is very much part of his life, that is something I stipulated. She is back on the straight and narrow and with another partner, but she is in and out of relationships like a yo-yo. I think that's because of what happened to her. [REDACTED] is in a stable relationship. She has two kids, but she is like me, she buries things. The youngest, [REDACTED], doesn't want to work with men. So it has affected her too. It has affected every one of us.

121. My oldest grandson is sixteen. When he was eighteen months old I went back to Dunoon. I'd never told my kids about [REDACTED] or Dunclutha, though [REDACTED] done that out of anger one time. I took them over and the home was still up and running. It only closed about two years ago. My initials are still carved on a tree. I knocked on the door and a woman I didn't know let us in and let the kids see the environment I grew up in. We went back to the caravan and over two days I answered their questions and filled in the gaps for them.
122. I go back every year to this caravan. Dunoon wasn't the problem. It was Dunclutha. I was an adult when we went back and it wasn't as big as I imagined it. There were ten kids in the place. Each had a room that had been a dormitory when I was there. It was tiny compared to what I remembered as a child. It did bring memories back. Loads of stuff came flooding back. You could see yourself in the corridors. It has closed now and I know things have changed massively and I'm really glad they have but I'm glad it has shut down.
123. I took an overdose once and got my stomach pumped. This was before I had [REDACTED]. I can't remember exactly when. I was alone in this big flat. When they gave me the keys I was terrified. I still sleep with the bathroom light on. I think it was the first time I'd been on my own. I've felt a couple of times over the years like ending it because of what happened to my kids, I blame myself. One of my pals came in, she shouted my name. I got out the bath and fell in the hall. She called her mum who came up and got an ambulance.
124. I've never had counselling. I've not had any help from doctors. I kind of deal with it. I do have my blips. Alcohol plays a big part in my life. Not every day, but some days. When I have bad days, when things are in my head I do drink. I get drunk. Not in front of my grandson. I blamed myself for [REDACTED] going off the rails and police coming to my door.
125. I would say I've been drinking since I told [REDACTED] what happened to me. When I beat myself up about what happened. I tend to have a drink to knock me out and go to sleep because I want to forget what's going on in my head. I have blowouts every

few months for about twenty four hours. I don't want to talk to people about it. Talking about it just brings things back. I hope after this today that I don't have to bring it up again. That is my coping mechanism.

Reporting of Abuse

126. I never reported the abuse I suffered to the police. The first person I told about PQZ [REDACTED] was my second husband, [REDACTED] but he used it as a weapon. It destroyed our marriage. If I refused sex he would say, "But you let a dirty old man do it to you". We divorced and he has since passed away.

Records

127. I asked about my records once. I think it was my niece's social worker I asked and she told me that all the records were in Glasgow somewhere. She didn't know where. She asked if I was interested and I wasn't sure if I wanted to read them. I didn't see her again and didn't take it any further.

Lessons to be Learned

128. I think they could work with the families of the kids in care more. I don't think the parents are helped to get the kids integrated back into the family home. The fact that they do police checks now is a positive thing. I don't think that was done when I was in care. I think there should be someone out with the care environment the kids trust that they can talk to. Can anything be made better, police checks, etc, because people do and have slipped through the net. Relationships and trust need built up with a child for them to be able to open up.

Other information

129. 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.

FGJ

Signed.....

Dated..... 14/10/2019.....