Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

EOZ [redacted]

Support person present: No

1. My name is EOZ [redacted]. My birth name was EOZ [redacted] prior to me going into care. My date of birth is [redacted] 1983. I am 35 years old. My contact details are known to the inquiry.

Life before being put into care

2. I don't remember too much about my time before I went into long term foster care with FJX/FJY [redacted]

3. When I was small I lived in Dumbarton with my parents [redacted] and [redacted] My half-sister [redacted], who was the oldest, and my older brothers FDD [redacted] and FDJ [redacted] also stayed at the family home. FDD [redacted] was born in 1980 and FDJ [redacted] was born in 1982.

4. I think we were put into foster care because our mum and dad were alcoholics and they couldn't manage. By this time my mother had left my dad. I have a vague recollection of living in the Banff area with my mum. I think that this was where she was from. I know that some my time in care was in the Banff area but I couldn't say how long this was.

First unknown foster family

5. I was around three years old when I went into foster care the first time. I don't remember anything about the foster parents I stayed with or what their names were. I think that my half-sister [redacted] was with me.

6. I recall that I was abused by the foster parent's son whilst I was staying with them. This was investigated by the police when I moved into foster care with the FJX/FJY [redacted].

Foster care with [redacted] family

7. I know that I was moved to another foster family but I don't remember how this came about. I think the family was [redacted]. I only really remember the woman. She had two older sons. I went there on my own. I don't know what happened to [redacted] after this.

8. I don't know how long as I was with this foster family. Eventually I was moved again to another family, the FJX/FJY [redacted]. I think that this was because I wasn't settling at this foster home.

FJX/FJY [redacted]

9. The next foster placement was with FJX/FJY [redacted]. Their house was at [redacted] which was just outside Fraserburgh. My brothers, FDD [redacted] and FDJ [redacted] were already there. I think that my half-sister [redacted] might have ended up in a children's home.

10. FJX [redacted] and FJY [redacted] didn't have any children of their own.

11. I was about four years old when I moved in with the FJX/FJY [redacted]. I can't remember what my first impressions were of the FJX/FJY [redacted] home. I recall that the social work became involved because of the sexual abuse I had suffered at the first foster home. I was

shown a doll by the police but I didn't really understand what was going on. I found it all very embarrassing. I don't know what happened with the investigation after this.

12. As I got older I would hear my foster parents telling other people that I had been sexually assaulted.

13. When I arrived there were no other foster children other than my brothers staying with the FJX/FJY. At first we were told to call our foster parents Uncle FJX and Auntie FJY

14. FJX worked with Housing. I think when I was younger FJY had other jobs as well as being a foster parent. She worked as a home help and at the café.

15. I looked on FJX as the fun one. He was very laid back. I saw him as the dad who loved us. He wasn't there a lot during the week because he was always doing sleepovers at his work. I looked forward to him being home at the weekend as FJY was that bit nicer to us when he was there.

16. After a few months we moved to which was just over the road. By coincidence my grandmother used to stay at the same address. At number I had my own room. I don't remember if this was the case at number

17. At some point, I can't remember exactly when, we were asked if we wanted to call FJX and FJY mum and dad. We knew what the answer should be and said yes. It was the same thing when we were asked about changing our surname to FJX/FJY. We knew the answer had to be yes. I think I was in high school when the name change happened.

Routine

18. In the morning FJY would get me up. I would dress myself and get ready for school. I would then go downstairs for breakfast. I don't know what it was but I always needed the toilet once I was at breakfast. If I said anything to FJY she

would scream at me. She would say that I should have gone before coming downstairs. After this I ended up not saying anything. I was too terrified to ask. It got so bad I would wet myself when I was sitting at breakfast. I went to school a few times when I had wet myself. At first FJY didn't notice. When she did notice I was taken to the doctor to check if I had an infection. Obviously there was nothing wrong with me like an infection or similar. When this was going I think I was in either primary three or four.

Siblings

19. I think my time in care did affect my relationship with my brothers. If one of us had done something wrong then we would have to go along with the punishment. This might mean we wouldn't speak to whoever had been given the row.

20. I remember an instance when FJY was at the bingo. I was writing silly little notes and passing them through to FDD to annoy him. FDD went and told FJX FDD was told to just send other ones back to me. The next day whilst we were at school FJY found one of the notes. When we got home from school FJY had written a big poster that said 'FDD pisses the bed." FDD actually did wet the bed. This was FJY 's reaction to FDD sending notes even though it was FJX who had said to do it. It was very immature.

Holidays/trips

21. During the summer holidays FJX and FJY never did anything with us. If we wanted to go to the local beach with our friends we had to ask. Sometimes we would be allowed other times we wouldn't be.

22. There was one time we went to Cadonnas in Aberdeen for the fair rides. As we got older we started to go on some holidays. We would go to Wales but this was more a holiday for them rather than us. FJX had family in England and we would go and see them on the way to Wales. They were a lovely family. FJY put a front on for them but would say about that we were bad children. If I was offered a biscuit and

took one I knew I would get into trouble. I always politely refused. I used to hide my face when we left as they were so nice. I knew if I saw them I would start crying.

23. One year we went on holiday to Spain but it wasn't a particularly good experience. This would have been in when I was in primary six or seven. FJY got drunk one of the days in Spain and kept on threatening to jump into the pool. She said this even though I was begging her not to as I knew she wasn't a good swimmer. She never did jump in the pool.

Schooling

24. I went to Inverallochy Primary School. I would walk there with my brothers and my friends. This would take about fifteen minutes. I didn't mind school. I never struggled. I think that the reality was that anytime away from FJY was good. I do think that most of the time I was in a wee world of my own at school. Drama was my favourite subject.

25. I was treated fairly at school by the teachers. Mrs Downie was my favourite. I don't have any negative memories of my time at school. After primary I moved to Fraserburgh High School.

26. At primary school there was an incident when one of the parents came to the house and claimed I had upset her daughter, [redacted] was one of my friends at school. I was upstairs and FJX came up and smacked me on the bare bum. He had immediately believed what he had been told. After this happened FJY decided to walk me to school for a week. I think I was in primary five at the time. When we got to the school the girl I was supposed to have upset was there with another girl. FJY said to the girls that she couldn't believe they wanted to be friends with me. She then offered to hold me down whilst the girls beat me up. The girls didn't really react to this. They knew what FJY was like.

27. We were never encouraged to do our homework or do well at school. FJY and FJX never came to any of our concerts or sports day at the school. At secondary

school I would have to make individual appointments with the class teachers for parent's night. FJY would make an excuse that she couldn't go because of a sore back. It would then fall back onto me when I was questioned about my foster parents not turning up. This was the same for my brothers. FJX and FJY didn't care how well we were doing at school.

28. I don't deal with stress well. I tend to want to get away from it when something starts to stress me. This happened when I was in fifth year at school. I was under pressure to get my work done. I decided that I just wanted to leave school. When I told FJY this I was just screamed and shouted at. In sixth year I hardly went to classes. I built myself up to say to FJY that I didn't want to go back to school. The night I told her, I sat at the dinner table and hardly ate a thing. When I said that I wanted to leave school I burst into tears. FJY asked why I was crying and what was bothering me. It was completely different from how she had been the year before.

29. When I left school I had my standard grades. If I had more encouragement then I think I would have done a lot better at school. I never had any additional support at the school.

30. FDD and I were really good at cross country running. If we were picked to run for the school FJY would never take us. This was despite the fact she could drive and wasn't doing anything else. If there was any excuse FJY could find she would stop us going. This would happen a lot.

Chores

31. After school I would get changed out of my school clothes. I would then go down stairs into the living room. I learnt to ask FJY if there was anything she wanted me to do. This would sometimes put her in a good mood. Other times she would still scream at you for even asking that.

32. If anyone came to visit I would be expected to make the teas for them. When I was at high school I was expected to do the ironing after school. By this time FJY

wasn't even working. I wouldn't dare refuse to do anything that I was asked to do. FJY wasn't critical about the work I did but she was with FDJ Nothing he did was ever good enough.

Leisure time

33. It would be normal for me to have to sit in the living room without speaking. There was no kids TV just the rubbish that FJY was watching. You had to ask if you wanted to go upstairs to play. I never knew what the response would be. Sometimes she would be nice and it wouldn't be a problem. Other times she would scream at you for asking. I would just end up sitting there too scared to ask.

34. If my friends were out playing with their buggies and dolls I wouldn't ask if I was allowed to take mine out. If I did I would probably be screamed out. I was terrified of this happening. I got around this by going out to play then getting one of my friends to go to the house. They would ask if I was coming out. When they were told I was already out they would then ask if they could have my buggy and doll to play with. FJY soon got wise to this and it stopped.

35. If my friends were allowed out until nine thirty then FJY would bring me in at eight. It was embarrassing and made me miserable.

Bathing/hygiene

36. When I was younger there would be a bath once a week. I would have my bath with my brothers. When I was older I had a bath on my own. I can't remember who bathed us. It's not something I look back on as being traumatic.

Clothing

37. It was always old clothing that I wore. I was conscious that my trousers would hang down past my bum. When my shoes were too small for me I wouldn't dare say

anything. I was too scared in case I was screamed at. It wasn't like they didn't have money. They had a lot of new cars over the time I was there.

Food

38. I would sit at the table for meals with my brothers. FJY wouldn't sit at the table with us. FJX was normally at his work when we were having our meals. Generally you would have to eat what you were given. I remember we had Weetabix for breakfast. I didn't like Weetabix and would bring it back up. When I did this I would still eat it. I was too scared in case I was shouted at by FJY

39. Sometimes I took so long to eat my food I was grounded by FJY I know that FDD and FDJ had similar problems with FJY It got so bad I would put food in my pockets then I would hide it in my bedroom. This went on for years. It was never taken on board when you said you didn't like certain food.

Birthdays/Christmas/other occasions

40. When it was my birthday I would get a card with £10 in it. One time I was given a Barbie doll. It wasn't handed to me. I just saw it lying around and knew that was for me.

41. My birth mum would send us birthday and Christmas cards but they would only sometimes be passed on. I only knew about the others because I would find them lying around the house. There were also photos I found that my mum had sent. These had never been given to us.

42. Because there was only a year between me and FDJ we had a bouncy castle for our birthday. This happened for two or three years. It was clear though that the bouncy castle wasn't really for us. It was more for FJY family to enjoy. This was Auntie and Uncle There were also about five children. I have to say that FJY relatives did treat us like family. When the bouncy castle was there you were given an allocated time to play on it. You couldn't just play on it when you wanted to.

43. There was one occasion when FJY was upset after paying the man who provided the bouncy castle. I think this was because it was more expensive than she thought it was going to be. I saw her in the kitchen and felt sorry for her. I asked if she was okay. FJY just screamed at me that I would eat the sandwiches today and not waste them. I remember being sad that she was shouting at me when it was my birthday.

44. One year FDD was supposed to have a birthday party. This was cancelled after FDD wet the bed. When he did this he was shouted at by FJX and FJY

45. Other occasions like Halloween FJY always wanted to be the one having a party for her family.

46. FJY would have a party maybe three times a year. Sometimes she would get drunk and tell us how much she loved us. When we were a bit older FJY would sometimes say sorry. She would admit that she hadn't always been the best to us. It was almost like a sort of redemption thing.

47. When I was at primary school I was invited to a friend's birthday party at teatime. FJY knew about this. I got in from school but FJY never mentioned it. I was too frightened to say anything to her about the party. I didn't dare mention it. About an hour later, when it was too late, FJY suddenly remembered about the party. I burst into tears. It was then all put onto me because I was crying.

Healthcare

48. My brother had chicken pox when I was in primary one. FJY asked me and my other brother if we were feeling unwell. I had a sore head but I was too frightened to say anything. I went to school and still had a sore head. The teacher said to me at the end of the day to make sure I was checked for chicken pox. When I got home FJY was on the phone and I didn't dare interrupt her. I went upstairs and got

changed. Once FJY was off the phone I told her how I was feeling. FJY started to scream at me and said that I should have told her first thing in the morning.

49. Every year I would get the flu. I always got it really bad and was totally wiped out by it for about five days. This was the one time FJY wouldn't be as bad to me. She would treat me a bit better. I would always say I was fine when I was asked how I was feeling. This went on for years until I realised it's okay to say I was sad or upset when I was ill. I just didn't feel I was able to express myself at that time.

50. I hurt my pinkie finger once playing at the park. I was sitting at dinner and too scared to say anything. FJY asked what was wrong with my hand. When I told her she took me to the hospital. It turned out to be just a sprain.

51. FJY and FJX 's dog was very good but one day I kept annoying it until it bit me on the nose. I don't think there were any noticeable marks until a day or two later. Once they saw the marks I was taken to the doctor but I lied that it had happened the week before. The doctor said that there was nothing they could do about the marks so we all just went home.

Visits

52. When someone visited us I looked on it as a blessing. If there were visitors in the house this was when we would see a nice FJY

53. I recall one visit at the house by my birth father. I think that I was maybe four or five years old. FJY bad mouthed him. She said that he was a gangster and drug dealer. That was the only time that he visited.

54. My mother visited a few times. If she wasn't going to come the social work would let us know that she couldn't make it. When this happened FDJ would say that maybe she had missed the train. FJY would then say, "No she's just a bloody drunk."

55. I just wanted my mum because of how bad [FJY] was. One time [FJY] sat [FDD] [FDJ] and myself down. She asked if we really wanted to see our mum again or would we rather not. [FDJ] and [FDD] both said no. This was one of the few times that I stood up for myself and I said I did want to see her. My mum came and visited one more time but it was only me that she was allowed to see. The memories I have of my mums visits are good.

56. [FJY] told the social work department that it was too upsetting for me and I wouldn't eat after the visit. After this I wasn't allowed to see her again. I can't remember what age I was when this happened but I was still at primary school.

57. I don't remember much input from my social worker, Steve, when I was in foster care. Steve wasn't our social worker all the time we were in care. There was another social worker called Diane. She would listen to what [FJY] said and believed everything. One time Diane gave me a sheet of paper and asked me to fill it in about who I was. I never spoke or wrote anything on the paper. I was then taken back to [FJY]

58. The next social worker I had was called Lou Robertson. When Diane passed me over to Lou she said, "Don't be mistaken by her angel looks." I thought how rubbish is that not even to be given a chance. Lou turned out to be really nice. She would take me out for juice. I think Lou cottoned on to what [FJY] was like. She tried to speak to me about this. I wasn't going to give her anything. I didn't trust adults. I did say to Lou once that [FJY] had been reading my diary. Lou pulled [FJY] up for this and told her she shouldn't be reading my diary.

59. When I was sixteen Lou came to the house for a final visit. I had been asked if I wanted any further visits and I said no. [FJY] had told me that I couldn't leave until I was eighteen. By this time things in the house were awful. [FJX] had come to me and asked how I thought things were in the house. I told [FJX] it was terrible and I believed that [FJY] hated me. [FJX] said he didn't think that was right but would go and speak with [FJY] After this [FJX] came back to me. He said he had spoken with [FJY] [FJX] then told me that he thought it would be better if he

seen about getting me a flat. This never happened I think he wanted to keep this thing that we were still a happy family. By this time FDD had walked out and started to rent a flat in Fraserburgh. FDJ had also managed to get himself a flat but this was through the social work.

60. There was also a lady called Janet Saunders who would come to the house and take us out for the day. I don't know what Janet's role with the social work was. When we were out Janet would ask us to describe our foster home and our life there. I think it was to give us an insight into who we were.

61. As the years went on we would go to reviews with the social work. This would be every six months. You had to pretend that you were happy. At these reviews FJY would make out that I was a really bad and a problem child. We were asked if we were happy. We were just like robots and would nod and smile. It really angers me that the social work never noticed things weren't right.

62. My brother is a social worker now. He has met with social workers that were involved with us at these reviews. One of them, Iain Crocket, said that they knew things weren't right but how were they going to house three children. Iain is now quite senior with the social work.

Running away

63. I remember one time when two of my friends at high school arranged a fight at lunchtime in the courtyard. I sided with my friend [redacted] The other girl was [redacted] Her mum was friends with FJY [redacted] phoned her mum and told her about the fight. [redacted]'s mum and FJY came to the school at lunchtime. FJY walked straight over to me and slapped my face in front of everyone.

64. Later that day I ran away. I was found by the police around eleven that night at one of my friend's houses. FJX came and picked me up. I remember being terrified to get out the car when we arrived back at the house. FJX told me to go in the house. When I went into the kitchen FJX grabbed me by the neck. My feet were

actually off the ground when he did this. FJX told me to go into the living room and apologise to everyone. [redacted] was there with her mum and FJY

65. The next day FJX told me and FJY that he wasn't going to work until we sorted it out. FJY said that I had called her a name and that's why she slapped me. I told FJX that there hadn't been a word exchanged between us when it happened. FJY then went into full psycho mode. I was so frightened I ended up just saying that I had called her a name.

66. When all this was going on at the school there was no involvement by the teachers. I found this quite strange as it would have been the talk of the school.

67. About a year after this happened FJY said to me, "I'm going to have to start believing you a bit more. I've seen you admitting to things before that you haven't done".

Discipline

68. If I did something wrong FJY would tell me that I wasn't allowed to speak to FJX when he came home. This meant that FJX thought I was playing up with him. This would be an example of FJY trying to play me off against FJX

69. I remember on one occasion when I was very young my cousins were coming to visit. I can't remember what we had done wrong but we were forced to face the wall when they came in. FJY would always make out that we were really bad even if what we had done wasn't that bad.

Other information

70. FJX and FJY had a terrible relationship. FJY was completely jealous of any female. That included me even though I was only a kid. If FJX was play fighting with me or tickling me it would end up with me bawling and in tears. FJY would scream at me if I shouted too loudly or squealed too loud when I was tickled.

Sometimes FJX would say to just ignore her. If FJX gave me a cuddle I wouldn't be comfortable because I knew FJY didn't like it. FJY would say that I was trying to play her and FJX against each other. This was all in her mind but it made me feel bad.

71. Our social worker s wife was having an affair with FJX. She was also FJX 's boss. This went on for years. FJY was a very jealous person. When she became aware of his affair she was very vocal about it to everyone. There was one occasion when FJX left and went to stay with his mum. FJY told us we were going to England to stay with a family we had met on holiday in Spain.

72. The next morning my brother FDD woke me up. He said that FJY had tried to kill herself. FJY was admitted to Cornhill psychiatric hospital for assessment. When I woke up that morning FJX was back at the house. After this happened FJX took us to visit at her house. When we went out for a walk FJX and walked hand in hand even though we were there with them.

73. When FJY got back home from hospital FJX asked me to give FJY a cuddle. She shunned me and this was really upsetting as I was blaming myself for what had happened. It affected me for a long time.

74. I can't believe that the social work never got involved to make sure that we were all okay. It seemed to be that the support was there for FJX and FJY but not for us.

75. We were told not to say to anyone what had happened with FJY. We had to put up this façade that everything was okay and normal.

76. There were a lot of affairs that FJX had whilst we were in care with him and FJY. There were times that I would see FJX and FJY physically fighting

because of this. I would also hear them arguing and fighting when I was upstairs in my room.

77. I would say that I had it the hardest because I was a girl. FJY also didn't like FDJ It was a funny one because FDD was FJY favourite. I don't really know the reason for this. She was just a lot nicer to him. If I was home a minute late I would be screamed at. Most of the time FJY was more relaxed with FDD On other occasions she would be raging at him. There were times when I could be late home and FJY wouldn't say anything. This shows how unpredictable FJY was.

78. There was façade around the family that everything was okay and there weren't any problems. I think that the wider community were aware that things weren't right. They also knew what FJY and FJX were like. One time my best friend told me that her mother had said FJX and FJY had only fostered us for the money. My friend's mum was really nice so I think this just showed again people knew what was going on.

79. There was one occasion when FJX and FJY were arguing. This finished with FJY throwing an iron at FJX After seeing this FDD and FDJ ran out the house. I ran after them and ended up at the beach where FJX found me. He asked me to go with him to find my brothers, which we did. They had apparently been headed for Fraserburgh Children's Home. When we all arrived back at the house FJY said to FDD and FDJ "If you had gone to the children's home they would have just laughed at you."

80. There were other foster children that stayed with us at FJX and FJY 's. I remember a girl called . She took an overdose on my birthday because she was pregnant. After this we never saw her again.

81. Another girl who stayed with us for years was and she had learning difficulties. I think because of this FJY wasn't too bad with her. parents also had learning difficulties and she was still in touch with her grandmother. This might have been why FJY watched how she was with her.

82. One of the other girls who stayed was [redacted] She was [FJY] little princess. She just loved her.

83. One of the boys who stayed was [redacted] was a little baby when he came. I think he was about six months old. [redacted] stayed until he was three. [FJX] and [FJY] treated him like their son.

84. [redacted] would hold his breath when he was a baby. [FJY] would smack his bottom and told me that this was how they had been taught to deal with it. [redacted] eventually went back to his own parents.

85. I heard about a girl called [redacted] who was there after I left. Apparently she had accused [FJX] of grabbing her towel from her when she came out the bath. After this happened she had left and gone somewhere else.

Abuse

[FJY] [redacted]

86. I remember when I was younger [FJY] had knitted me a cardigan. We went to visit my granny and I was wearing the cardigan. Without warning [FJY] grabbed the cardigan and physically dragged me over the room. I don't know what I had done to for her to do this. [FJY] was saying that I didn't deserve the cardigan.

87. After this happened I went to stay with [FJX] sister, [redacted]. I stayed there for at least one day and night. A few years ago [redacted] was speaking to one of my brothers. She told him about this incident. [redacted] said I was just sitting there. I was just a little girl needing loved.

88. FJY was terrifying. She would stand and scream and swear at you until you started to cry. You didn't need to do anything wrong she would just do it. FJY made you feel uncared for and unloved.

89. Sometimes after FJY had been shouting at me FJX might give me a cuddle or shout back at her. Other than that he never really intervened or tried to stop FJY screaming at me.

90. FJY wasn't physical towards me a lot. She would smack your bum for doing something wrong. One time when she went to smack me on the bum I shouted at her to get off. She threw me across the room and said she wouldn't waste her time on me. After this she would smack me across the face rather than the bum. This didn't happen that often.

91. I remember one time being downstairs and really scared. I could hear FJY screaming at my brother. I was thinking, "Please don't smack him".

92. At my primary school there was a climbing frame. I used to hang on it upside down hoping that I would fall on my head and go to hospital. I thought if this happened FJY would start to care about me.

FJX

93. Sometimes FJX would toy fight with me. This would be just before my teenage years. He would give me what he called a "tit nip". I felt that this was inappropriate. I would go in a sulk but FJX would just laugh it off. My brothers seen him doing this and they also thought it was inappropriate.

Leaving foster care

94. After leaving school I had a part time job with [redacted] in Fraserburgh. I decided that I wanted to do a psychology course as I had been interested in this at school. I

found out eventually that if you were in care and wanted to do further education the social work would support you. There was a course at Fraserburgh College for social services but I lied to FJX and FJY and said that the only course was at Aberdeen. FJY had said that I couldn't leave the foster home until I was eighteen. I didn't know at the time but I could have left when I was sixteen.

95. When I went to Aberdeen College FJY made me stay at the house for the first six months. She said this was to make sure I was going to stick at the course. After this I moved to Aberdeen and managed to get a part time job as a waitress although I was also now getting financially supported by the social work. Even then FJY was still interfering. I think she had words with my boss at the [redacted] in Fraserburgh. My boss had told me that I wouldn't be able to transfer my job to the store in Aberdeen. This was not right as I spoke with the manager of the Aberdeen [redacted]. She told me I could have just transferred if I wanted to. It was another example of FJY trying to influence my life.

96. I did really well at college and achieved enough qualifications to do a degree. Despite all this I was really stressed and struggled to cope. The college were really supportive and this helped me to gain a place at Aberdeen University studying psychology.

Life after foster care

97. After me and my brothers left foster care we would still go back to visit FJX and FJY It's really hard to explain to people why we did this. I think it was because when people have had control over you for such a long time it's difficult to just move on. I still looked on them as my family.

98. Sometimes I would go back and visit for a week but this gradually got less and less until I was just going for a day. When I visited they were still fostering children. I would witness FJY still shouting and swearing at the children.

99. Whilst I was at University I met my partner, [redacted]. I became pregnant with my first child. I phoned FJY and told her. She was absolutely delighted for me. From this time until my daughter was about three months old FJY was a completely different woman. I was thinking that his was her chance to put it all behind her and show me she could be better. Once my daughter was three months it started to wear off with FJY. She went back to being how she was before.

100. [redacted] eventually met FJX and FJY. After this he asked me why they foster children as they seemed to hate them.

101. FJX and FJY would look after my daughter some weekends. I needed the money so I had to work. After one of these weekends my daughter came home and said to me, "Granny FJY scares me". I couldn't do anything when I was told this. I didn't say anything to [redacted] as I couldn't cope with how he would have reacted. [redacted] still didn't know most of what had gone on.

102. There was another time when my brother FDD phoned me and said he thought FJY was starting to treat my daughter how she used to treat me. FDD said there had been an incident when my daughter was around two years old. She had been crying for me and FJY had lost it with her. FJX had to take my daughter away and tell FJY to calm down. This set alarm bells ringing with me.

103. By this time me and my brothers had started talking about what had gone on when we were fostered. I would have been about 25 years old. My brother FDJ had to go and see a psychiatrist. He told them everything. As a result the psychiatrist said that they would have to involve the social work unless FDJ was willing to do this himself. FDJ agreed to write a letter. He handed this in personally to Fraserburgh Social Work but nothing ever came of it.

104. In December 2008 I arranged to have a little party just a few days after Christmas. I invited FJX and FJY and the kids they were looking after. There were four girls and a little boy. [redacted] was still with her. She had been there for years. The party never happened. FJY phoned me on Boxing Day and asked me if FJX

had ever sexually abused me. She told me that one of the girls, [redacted] she was fostering had accused FJX [redacted] of abusing her. FJY [redacted] said that she was still my mum and I could tell her anything. I could tell by what she was saying that she had her doubts about FJX [redacted] I personally felt that some of things FJX [redacted] had said to me in the past weren't right. I told FJY [redacted] that if she believed FJX [redacted] she still had to call the social work as that was the right thing to do.

105. FDD [redacted] told me that after this had all come out he was there when FJY [redacted] had sat all the children down, including [redacted]. She asked [redacted] to tell them what she had said about FJX [redacted]. When this happened FDD [redacted] got up and left. FJY [redacted] followed him out and asked if she could go with him but FDD [redacted] said no.

106. I don't know how everything worked out exactly after this. I know that either FJX [redacted] or FJY [redacted] did phone the social work department. Despite this allegation the social work allowed [redacted] and the other children to stay in the house that night. The social work told FJX [redacted] he would have to leave the house whilst the investigation continued. FJX [redacted] came to stay with me that night. I was happy that my daughter was safe even though I had doubts about FJX [redacted]

107. Eventually all the kids were removed from FJY [redacted] house. I even offered to have them stay with me. By the January I knew that FJY [redacted] and FJX [redacted] were starting to change their stories to fit what each other was saying. The police had become involved and I knew then that I had to make sure that I told the truth about what had being going on. I spoke with the police. After this I had no more contact with FJX [redacted] and FJY [redacted]. FJY [redacted] did leave some horrible voicemails on my phone. When I spoke with the police I told them basic things like how horrible a person FJY [redacted] was. After this FJX [redacted] and FJY [redacted] weren't allowed to look after children.

108. Me and my brothers thought when the police became involved it would lead to a bigger investigation. FDJ [redacted] told the police about the letter to the social work but again there was nothing done about it. Apparently it wasn't seen as a child protection issue.

109. I felt at this time what me and my brothers had told the police should have opened up a can of worms. The police were aware that I had concerns about the children that were currently in foster care with FJX and FJY. I know that FJX was never charged after this police investigation.

110. After me and my brothers started talking about what had happened to us in foster care it made us realise things weren't right. I started talking more openly about it. I was able to start telling bits about what had happened to me. Before this I knew there were issues. I think that because FJX and FJY had tried to make it look like there was nothing wrong it was difficult to express how we were feeling at that time. An example of this was when my friend was at the house. I said that if I didn't eat my tea I would be grounded. FJX heard this and said, "That never happened". It made me realise then he was never going to admit there was anything wrong.

Impact

111. Around March 2010 I started to feel very unwell with what had happened to me. I struggled to cope. My life started to come crashing down. At this time I became pregnant with my son. I developed OCD behaviours. I would lose it really easily.

112. I had being going to different doctors with nothing really being done. I eventually ended up seeing a doctor in Ellon who realised what was wrong with me. I was put on anti-depressants for my anxiety. I felt that FJX and FJY had broken me.

113. I needed a lot of help looking after my kids I was in such a bad place. The doctor referred me to a psychologist. I went to see her for about a year. I was still working and could only see her on a Friday. I stopped seeing her when my time off didn't fit in with when she was available. This was at the point when she wanted to start talking about my time with FJX and FJY

114. FJX and FJY have ruined me and my brother's lives. I have no happy memories of my childhood. I also know that other children who stayed with them have had their lives ruined as well. Some of the earlier years I had with my son were difficult for me. I feel that some of the special times for me were taken away. It wasn't because of my son or anything to do with him. It was due to how I was feeling as a result of my time in care with FJX and FJY I was struggling with my mental health. Having a baby and the joy it brought kept me going even though I was ill. It gave me a reason to get up in the morning.

115. As an adult I feel FJX and FJY had an impact how I developed. I was so used to doing what they said. I would have nightmares every night. These involved FJX and FJY controlling me. They were so real. I only have a nightmare now on a rare occasion. I have been on medication since 2011. This has helped me.

116. There was also an impact on my education. There was never any support from FJX and FJY. This led to me becoming very stressed when I was faced with exams. As a teenager I contemplated suicide and was bulimic.

117. I always struggled with relationships. When I met [redacted] I continually asked him if he loved me. If we had arguments I would just shut down and not say anything. If it wasn't for my children I don't think I would have been able to go on and wouldn't be here now. I still have times when I feel like that and think I'd be better off dead. The last time I felt like that was May this year. I think this was when the new police investigation started.

118. My brother FDJ also contemplated suicide. Before I didn't understand this but I now know how he feels.

Reporting of abuse

119. One of the children who used to stay with FJX and FJY recently reported what happened to them to the police. This opened a completely new investigation. I have

provided a statement to the police from Aberdeen about my time in care with FJX and FJY I was asked why I didn't tell the police about everything when they spoke to me in 2010. I told them I thought the earlier investigation would look into how they cared for children but it didn't. I can't remember the name of the police officer who noted my statement. I know that this police inquiry is ongoing. I have heard that FJX and FJY have been made aware of the latest police investigation.

Records

120. When I knew that the police were coming to see me I tried to get my records. I have been in touch with someone about this. They are going to look into it but I've not received anything yet. I just thought the more information I had the better it would be for the police investigation.

Other information

121. I know for a fact that when FJX and FJY took on the extra four children after we had left their care the social work agreed to pay for an extension, conservatory and extra bedroom. This was on the understanding that they would keep the children until they were eighteen. FJY told me at that time this shouldn't have been allowed and it was all hush hush. There was no legal agreement it was just agreed. This really sickens me that they still stay in this big house that has been paid for from them abusing children. They should be staying in a one bedroomed house.

Counselling

122. I have never had any counselling about my time in foster care with FJX and FJY

123. When I was growing up I always thought the police and the social work were there to look after you. This was the same with the foster parents. They should also have been there to look after me. In this respect I was let down by all these people.

124. I have no objection to my witness statement being published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed.. EOZ [redacted] .....

Dated... 28/1/2019 .....