

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

FZU

Support person present: No

1. My name is FZU My date of birth is 1980. I am speaking to the Inquiry on behalf of my adopted daughter FZV who was known as FZV as a child in care. Her date of birth is 2011. Her adoption was finalised on 2018. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. My knowledge about FZV before she became my daughter through the adoption process, comes from the Children and Families department of Edinburgh City Council. When I was adopting FZV Edinburgh City Council who were the local authority, had to disclose to me all of the information they had about FZV including her birth parents, why she was removed and her medical history.
3. FZV was in foster care from birth. FZV birth mother is and her birth father is was young when she had FZV she has learning difficulties and came from a chaotic family background. She wasn't able to look after a baby. wasn't suitable for other reasons.

Beginning the adoption process

4. I first enquired to adopt at the end of 2014. I enquired at a few adoption agencies and settled on one that I liked. Sarah Goulding was allocated as my social worker. She would see me through the adoption process and provide support after adoption.
5. You spend about a year being assessed and doing a lot of study about children and the types of children you might adopt in Scotland. Most will have some complex history. I found it a positive journey and I was approved. Then it was a case of being matched with the right child.
6. I went to an Exchange Day, which is almost like a conference where you go around stalls from each local authority. You meet people who talk to you about children who are more difficult to place. As soon as I walked in the room, a picture of a little girl with blond hair caught my eye. The little girl is now my daughter, FZV
7. There is a very specific process which is followed once you are matched with a child. The process included meeting with a paediatrician who looked at FZV medical records and met with her. That meeting was very general, confirming FZV had met her developmental needs and physical milestones for her age. The adoption is finally approved at a Matching Panel.
8. No concerns were flagged up. There was nothing to suggest neglect or abuse, it was to the contrary. The social workers promoted it as a huge positive that FZV had been in the same foster placement since birth, with experienced foster carers, so she didn't have the changes that some foster children have had and wouldn't have the issues that some adopted children have. They said FZV should have secure attachments because she was happy, well-bonded and connected with her foster parents.
9. From my point of view, it was great. I had been told a couple were interested in FZV and couples were prioritised. Legally, the council is not supposed to do that. That broke my heart and made me realise that FZV was the little girl I really wanted. Luckily for me, the couple backed out.

Foster Care - [REDACTED], [REDACTED] Edinburgh

10. I met [REDACTED], [REDACTED] foster parents, before I met [REDACTED]. They were both full-time foster carers. I met [REDACTED] first, at the Exchange Day, sometime in April 2015. He was at Edinburgh City Council's stall where I saw [REDACTED] photo, with social workers from Edinburgh. [REDACTED] was there to talk to anyone who wanted to talk about [REDACTED]. I liked him and we got on. He was a soft spoken, friendly man in his early sixties. He had whitish, grey, receding hair and glasses. [REDACTED] was average height and build with a beer belly. I thought [REDACTED] would be a nice granddad figure for [REDACTED] in the long term.

The first official meeting

11. I was supposed to have a formal meeting with [REDACTED] and his wife, [REDACTED] prior to the Matching Panel. This was to talk about [REDACTED] from the foster parent's perspective. I just met with [REDACTED] because [REDACTED] couldn't make it. This was part of the formal process and my social worker, Sarah Goulding from St Andrew's Children's Society in Edinburgh, came with me to the meeting. It was held at the offices of Edinburgh City Council at Kirk Loan in Edinburgh on 6th August 2015.
12. At the meeting were [REDACTED] Lauren who was [REDACTED] own social worker who managed foster carers, myself, and Sarah Goulding. [REDACTED] is slim, about 5' 7", with neatly cropped dark hair and glasses. She was in her early sixties. I couldn't believe [REDACTED] was married to [REDACTED] when I met her. She is very brash, at this stage she wasn't aggressive but she was loud and outspoken. I didn't dislike her but she was a full-on character. Later, [REDACTED] was aggressive in formal meetings.
13. One thing that struck me about that meeting, and my social worker reflected on it too, was how negative [REDACTED] was about [REDACTED]. That isn't what you expect from a foster carer, especially if you want to adopt a child. What [REDACTED] was saying about [REDACTED], the

social work profile of her and the videos I had seen of [FZV] didn't match up. For example, she said [FZV] was a rogue and a terror. [FZT] said it in a joking, but not really joking, way. [FZT] asked if I was adopting on my own and said I wasn't going to manage [FZV] because she was a hurricane.

14. The way [FZT] spoke was jarring. I thought maybe this child is different to what I think she is. I thought [FZT] was trying to say to me this child was a lot of work and I should rethink this. It was a strange feeling. [FZS] had told me nice things and you could tell he really cared about [FZV] although that sounds weird now. [FZS] seemed to light up when he talked about her.
15. I continued wanting to be [FZV] mum and had my Matching Panel on 10th September 2015, which was successful. [FZT] had a role in that, where she makes a statement at the beginning and then leaves. Even at that Panel she made some joke and expressed negativity about [FZV]. After that, frustratingly, I had to wait for social work and Edinburgh Council to get their act together to organise the co-ordination week. That took months for lots of reasons, some unknown to me. The process was dragged out even though there was no legal reason to drag it out.

The second official meeting – the co-ordination meeting

16. The next step was to have a co-ordination meeting. It took place on 2nd October 2015, the Friday before the co-ordination week. At the co-ordination meeting were [FZT], [FZV] social worker who was Chris Jack, me, Sarah Goulding and Brenda-Anne Cochrane who was the Chair of the meeting. The Chair is someone neutral. Chris Jack was my point of contact at the council. The meeting was to plan out how I was to meet [FZV] and how the week would go. [FZT] was very much the one who was in control of meetings and plans, rather than [FZS]. The Chair brought up my financial status when [FZT] was there, which was very inappropriate and something that [FZT] then quizzed me about during the coordination week at her home.

17. At the meeting, Sarah Goulding suggested Chris Jack take me to the foster carer's house and introduce me on the first day. FZT flipped and said, "Nut, nut, nut, that's not how we do it," and banged her fists on the table. FZT was very aggressive and then she started crying and shouting. Sarah and I thought she must be finding losing FZV more difficult than other children but, in hindsight, it was because she didn't want a social worker to come to the house.

18. At no point during the meeting did any of the Edinburgh Council social workers stop the meeting, remove FZT and ask if she was okay or deal with her behaviour. FZT behaviour was ignored and pandered to. It was as if this was normal and the social workers didn't seem surprised. To me, her behaviour was horrible. There was no authority in the room and it was unprofessional. Even the Chair didn't deal with it. There was no reassurance given to me afterwards. I was concerned about having to be with this woman on my own the following week.

19. As the first impression of the process I had to go through to meet this child, it was awful. I tried to reason in my mind why FZT would act like that. I thought maybe FZT was struggling because she was attached to FZV and was upset at the thought of losing her. I thought the same about things that happened in FZT and FZS home later.

The co-ordination week

20. There is a co-ordination week before your child comes to stay with you. You don't meet the child before then. It's a week for getting to know your child before they move into your house. After a week to ten days, and if the child is comfortable, she moves in with you. There were supposed to be two further official meetings with social workers and FZT to talk about how FZV and I were doing in the co-ordination week, one meeting during the week itself and one a week after FZV had moved in. FZT told me during the co-ordination week that FZV birth parents had made a complaint about her and FZS I didn't think anything of it because it is apparently common for birth parents to complain about foster carers.

21. My first meeting with FZV was at FZS and FZT home in 2015 and was to take an hour or so. FZV was three years and ten months old. I went on my own because that was what FZT wanted. Whatever FZT wanted, she got. FZT held the social work department to ransom.
22. I had sent a talking photo book of myself and my family, so I knew FZV had heard my voice and seen my picture. You have to introduce yourself as "Mummy" from day one. The house was a standard, detached house with two or three bedrooms and an A-frame roof facing the front. I went to the door. My stomach was churning because it was exciting but I was also anxious. A little face came to a glass panel at the side of the door. FZV pressed her face up against it and said, "Mummy".
23. FZT or FZS let me in. They had done FZV nails and she looked beautiful. She had on new clothes. I didn't like the clothes because I thought they were inappropriate for her age. She was wearing an animal print dress. It was almost like the dress was sexy. It's my personal view and someone else might think differently. All of FZV clothes seemed to be black, grey and animal print. Normally, the wee girls you see have colourful clothes. However, FZT and FZS had made a real effort.
24. I spent an hour there. It was a really tough hour. The idea was that I spend an hour with FZV but I didn't get to because FZT wouldn't let me. She was in my face, talking really fast and loudly. FZT talked about her children. She wouldn't let me sit beside FZV without her being there. FZS was talking to me as well. When FZV talked to me, they talked over her. I almost physically couldn't leave because I was in a corner and they were standing over me, talking at me and questioning me. It felt like an interrogation.
25. You would expect a child with secure attachments to be wary of strangers but FZV came right up to me. When she came to me, she was diverted away by FZS or FZT. In that short time, there was nothing in FZS and FZT interaction with FZV that alarmed me but they were alarming as individuals. There was no sign of particular

affection or fear between FZV and FZS or FZT just an eagerness for FZV to talk to me and sit with me but she was never allowed to.

26. There were lots of toys. FZT and FZS had another foster child called [REDACTED] who was about eighteen months old. They let [REDACTED] crawl around the floor but I felt I had to spend most of my time stopping [REDACTED] from putting things in her mouth. They told me things about [REDACTED] family which I thought was inappropriate and FZS said she would end up being nothing but a hoody. FZS and FZT talked about other kids they had fostered.
27. Considering there were only two of them in the house with FZV and another baby, it was a hectic house. The house was covered in months of dust. I left feeling exhausted and really concerned. I couldn't tell you why I was concerned, I just felt uneasy. The meeting wasn't what I had imagined and I felt I hadn't met FZV
28. As soon as I got in the car, I phoned my social worker and told her about the meeting and how horrible it was. I felt I needed to go home and go to sleep. I went home really upset and sad.
29. The second day I went for lunch. That day was the same as the first day, in terms of FZT and FZS being odd. FZV didn't eat and FZT said she was fussy and it was hard to get her to eat. I thought that was understandable. The third day I took FZV out for a walk on my own. FZT was anxious and very loud. I couldn't wait to get a moment on my own with FZV and hear her speak. The day was lovely. I knew I had made the right decision and I could see FZV was the little girl I had imagined she was.
30. The fourth day I went for dinner and bath time to understand FZV routine. That's when it all changed. Dinner was fine but FZV didn't eat again. It came to bath time and I was surprised to hear that FZS was responsible for all personal care, bathing, washing, changing of nappies and pull up nappies, dressing and undressing. When I was going through the adoption process, I had been told that foster carers are supposed to safe-guard themselves. For example, if you have foster carers of each

gender then they should bath the same gender and the door should be ajar, or at least these tasks should be shared. FZT and FZS were doing the complete opposite which seemed strange.

31. FZS described the bath time routine and I sat on a stool in the bathroom. FZV went in the bath with the baby. FZS filled the bath like a puddle and the water didn't even cover her legs. There were no bubbles or toys and the water was cold. FZV was allowed to pee in the bath. After that, FZS gave FZV her toothbrush and she dipped it the bath water and brushed her teeth.
32. FZS washed FZV with a cloth, when she could have washed herself. I had an uneasy feeling and it was horrible to watch. It was odd but I didn't say anything because it was FZS house. FZV was quite different at bath time. At the time I thought she was embarrassed and excitable. Both kids were watching FZS and looking at him as if they were waiting or preparing for something. I couldn't say what that was.
33. We went back into the living room after FZV got out of the bath and FZV was running about naked. FZS put her pyjamas on her. FZV was still running about and it was chaotic. FZT said she had to dry FZV hair and tried to get FZV to come to her and calm down. You could see the stress on FZT face. She started shouting at FZV, grabbed her by the top of her arm, pulled her over and jammed her in-between her legs. FZT put the hairdryer on and FZV was crying. FZT made no attempt not to tug FZV hair. It was a terrible way to handle a child. It was obvious this was the bedtime routine.
34. I read FZV bedtime story. FZV bedroom was narrow and looked a bit like a cupboard. There was a single bed on one side and stacked up chairs and tables on the other side. It wasn't safe. FZT said she had meant to move the stuff out. FZV had soft toys and a night light but the room was scarce. There was nothing on the walls. It was a bit sad. FZV asked when she was coming to my house.

35. I phoned my social worker again and told her about the evening and my concerns. She was shocked. I said I thought [FZT] was a nutcase. My social worker called Edinburgh social work department and spoke to the Chair of the co-ordination meetings. She passed on my concerns. There was no acknowledgement or feedback from them.
36. The fifth day [FZV] visited me at my house for lunch. [FZT] and [FZS] brought her. The visit was for a couple of hours and I had the upper hand because it was my home. It was a bit easier going and really nice to have [FZV] in my house. [FZT] interrogated me about very personal matters, for example me being single and my financial position. She still made negative comments to [FZV], saying she would be spoiled. [FZS] and [FZT] couldn't be happy for her. It was disappointing because I had thought it would good for the foster carers to be a part of [FZV] life in the future. As I got to know [FZT], that wasn't going to happen.
37. The sixth day I took [FZV] out for a day in Edinburgh. That was lovely. [FZV] was asking when she could come to stay at my house and she said she didn't want to go back to [FZT] and [FZS]. I didn't think there was anything unusual about that because [FZV] couldn't be expected to understand there was an agreement and a plan. My social worker thought it was unusual because children are usually afraid to move in with their new parents.
38. The only thing that happened on the sixth day was that [FZV] didn't make it to the toilet once. [FZT] hadn't given me a change of clothes or let me know that [FZV] was still learning to go to the toilet on time. When we got back, I said to [FZT] that [FZV] had a wee bit of pee in her pants. [FZT] said she would get that later. I said [FZV] pants were wet but [FZT] let her sit in wet pants. I was heartbroken leaving [FZV] there. I didn't understand until later why I was having those feelings.
39. A friend of mine passed away and I had to change the co-ordination week plans to go to the funeral. My social worker suggested that we ask if [FZV] if could move in earlier with me, since she was asking to. I asked [FZT] if we could change the plan when I

dropped FZV off. I said I couldn't do Friday and, before I could say why, FZT flipped. She started shouting at me.

40. I then said my social worker had suggested maybe FZV could move in with me on Sunday instead of Tuesday. FZT said FZV was just a kid, you couldn't listen to what she was saying and she made things up. That seemed an odd thing to say. FZT said the plan couldn't be changed just because I wanted to change it and FZV wouldn't be moving in with me earlier. I reported that to my social worker as well.
41. I went to the funeral. My social worker pushed for FZV to move in with me earlier and she did move in a couple of days earlier than planned, on ██████████ October 2015. I thought FZV was wonderful, so funny and full of joy and I fell in love with her straight away.
42. After the second meeting, my social worker and I requested that FZT not attend the third meeting and the Chair agreed. We asked because of the accumulation of the whole co-ordination week, not trusting FZT and because FZT was questioning me about personal things that came up in the meetings. I wanted to record my concerns at the third meeting and I couldn't do that with FZT there.

Early indicators of abuse in Foster Care

43. From day one, I noticed things that were worrying. There were things like FZV shouting at the cat using adult language such as, "How dare you," and "Get down from there, you're a stupid cat" and having aggressive body language when she did this. FZV had road rage in the car and would shout out at other drivers, "What are you doing woman?"
44. I was told FZV was fairly toilet trained during the day but not at night time, so FZV wore a pull up nappy to bed. I noticed in the mornings that, perhaps understandably, FZV was too scared to come out of her room. FZV would sit in a corner and

defecate in her pull up in the morning when she was awake. She wasn't incontinent at night. I thought it was odd and spoke to my social worker about it.

45. I was surprised at how quickly FZV was settling in as you are taught that the child will be grieving their foster carers and birth family. FZV was not grieving. She was relieved and happy. FZV was out of the pull up at night within a couple of weeks of being with me. My social worker gave me some great tips on how to stop FZV being scared to come out of her room. Within a week, FZV would skip out of her room and come into my bed like a normal family would.
46. FZV would be playing with a baby doll and, in an affectionate way, say things like, "Come here, you wee bastard." Another day, FZV said to either a doll or the cat, "Come here, little tits." Both times, I asked what she'd said and she said it again. Both times, I asked where she heard that and FZV said that was what FZS calls [REDACTED]. She said FZS called [REDACTED] "little tits" when he was giving her a bath.
47. If FZV spilled a glass of water, she would cower her head and start shaking. It was like she was waiting for a consequence and there was a fear reaction. It was the same if there was a loud noise or a gasp. FZV behaviour was starting to really worry me.
48. FZV had never lived with her birth family. To me, she could only have learned these things from FZS or FZT or people that she'd met in the placement. I kept a note of these things and told my social worker who said it was concerning. My social worker went to Edinburgh Council and spoke to them. The council said they would log it. These concerns were accumulating.
49. FZV was still using a dummy when she came to me. She stopped using it right away. She complained of a sore mouth and I saw that the inside of her cheeks were raw and infected. FZT had told me she always gave FZV lollipops. The sugar had affected her mouth. I took FZV to the doctor, she got some ointment and it got better.
50. When FZV first moved in, her toenails hadn't been cut. The nails were curling in because they were so long. FZV clothes came in the standard black bag that you

hear about foster children having. Her clothes had holes in them, were covered in stains and the seams were coming away. It painted a horrible picture. She came with toys but most had been given to her by her birth family.

51. Then, one night I was giving [FZV] a bath. I can't remember the date but it is in an email. [FZV] had to get out to go to the toilet. I was helping her get back in the bath and she slipped because she was wet and soapy. I put my arm out and caught her, on the buttocks. My arm just touched her. [FZV] got really upset and started screaming. She was saying, "Mummy, you smacked my bum." It was a disproportionate reaction to what had happened. I was scared by how distressed [FZV] was.
52. I was confused as to how [FZV] knew what smacking a bum was and why she was interpreting what had happened as a smack. A child of that age wouldn't know unless they had been smacked. I explained I was trying to catch her and said I was sorry. I asked if anyone had smacked her bum and she said [FZT] and [FZS] both smacked her bum.
53. About a week after the bath incident, we were in the car and [FZV] was getting distressed and saying she didn't want to go back to [FZT] and [FZS]. She was the opposite of a grieving child. This happened on several occasions when she would scream and kick getting into my car, "Don't take me back there, I don't want to go back". This happened for months and in front of friends and family.

Reporting of early indicators of abuse in Foster Care

54. I phoned Sarah Goulding, my social worker, the morning after the bath incident and said I was really concerned. Sarah Goulding was too. I emailed her on 15 October 2015 to describe exactly what happened and what was said. My social worker spoke to her line manager and reported, in an email, to Chris Jack that they had serious concerns about things [FZV] was saying and her behaviours.

55. Chris Jack phoned and spoke to me. I reiterated my concerns, which were all happening within five or six days of FZV moving in with me. A few days later, he came out and spoke to FZV at my house. He would do that anyway, to check on FZV. FZV had met Chris but she was scared. I think she thought Chris was going to take her away. When she'd settled down a bit, I left Chris to talk to FZV in the living room.
56. FZV went to her room and I asked Chris if he could tell me anything. He said he was really worried. When he was asking FZV to tell him what she had told me the other night and what was it like at FZT and FZS, she wasn't saying anything but getting distressed. To him, that was a sign that something wasn't right. I knew my instinct was right.
57. Chris spoke to his line manager. The FZS-FZT were interviewed on 28th October 2015 by their social worker, Lauren Moss and Eric Harper, about the concerns raised by FZV against them. Lauren Moss came back to Sarah Goulding, who came back to me. I was copied into an email with a summary of the FZS-FZT response, on 29 October 2015. There are a lot of people copied into the email who I don't know. I still have a copy of the email.
58. I'm not a professional and I don't work in this field but even I can see that, what I would call their excuses, are quite clearly excuses. The FZS-FZT said they played a game with FZV which involved smacking her bum. They had an answer for everything. Lauren Moss said in the email that the FZS-FZT have been foster carers for twenty years, they've never had any concerns about them so they don't have any concerns now and that's that. That was an end to it, at that time. They wrote to Sarah by email. The FZS-FZT still had

The third official meeting

59. The third meeting took place on 23 November 2015 and was to review how FZV was settling in. The meeting was chaired by Brenda-Anne Cochrane and others present

were Chris Jack, me and Sarah Goulding. I formally brought up the things I'd witnessed in the foster house, such as FZT rough handling when she brushed FZV hair, her telling me that FZV needs firm handling and FZT always laying down the law.

60. I formally recorded FZV showing concerning behaviours since she had moved in with me. This was all recorded in the minutes of the meeting but there was no follow up or feedback from the social work department. Everything I raised with Brenda-Anne Cochrane as a concern or a worry, she put down to FZV being an adopted child. She said adopted children are in a new home and are scared. Brenda-Anne Cochrane kept putting it back me, saying maybe FZV was scared of me.
61. The way the meeting was conducted was quite inappropriate and unprofessional. My social worker was asking questions and saying we were waiting for various things for FZV. She asked what was going to be done about my concerns and about funding for a course which I could go on. Brenda-Anne Cochrane shouted at my social worker and told her she was being unreasonable. There was a heated argument. My social worker was bullied and intimidated in the meeting. The meeting was very awkward.

Further indicators of abuse in Foster Care

62. FZV repeatedly described being smacked or hit in the foster home by FZT and FZS. She said FZT would tug her hair and hit her on the head with the hairbrush when she was getting her hair brushed. When I asked why FZT did that, FZV said it was because she was annoying and stupid.
63. FZV said she was not allowed to come out of her room in the morning. She said she would tiptoe into FZT bedroom, would get a smack and be sent back to her room. FZV repeatedly described her bedroom door being locked and, at my house, was terrified of the door being shut. The hall light always had to be on.

64. FZV repeatedly described being shut behind the gate at the top of the stairs. The toilet was downstairs in FZS and FZT house and FZV wasn't allowed out of her room or past the gate to go to the toilet. That was why she had a pull up nappy on at night.
65. FZV has a [REDACTED] where she had plastic surgery for a [REDACTED] when she was two and half years old. This wasn't in the social work records and I wasn't told about it until I met the foster carers. I was told she was standing on a stool, washing dishes, and she slipped off [REDACTED]
66. That's not the story FZV tells. She is very distressed and unclear about what happened and gives different versions of where and when it happened. One time, she said it was outside in the garden on a hard bit of pavement and she was pushed. Another time she said it was in the kitchen and she was pushed. FZV would also say that it was an accident. I don't know if that's because she was told to say it was an accident.
67. In November 2015, FZV started to meet some of my close friends. One of my male friends came to meet her and brought her a big teddy. FZV was excited to meet him. I left them in the living room while I made coffee and I heard my friend shouting for me. I ran back in. FZV was standing in front of him, had pulled down her pants and leggings and had bent over to display her bum to him. My friend panicked and didn't know what to do.
68. I was probably naïve as a first-time mum and first time adopting because I thought, was that normal for kids that age? I asked my friend because he has children and he said he wouldn't say it was normal. I thought it was odd but my mind didn't go to abuse.
69. In [REDACTED] 2016 when FZV was four years old, the nursery teacher at FZV nursery asked to speak to me. She said there was an incident where FZV grabbed a little boy in his privates, over his clothes. I was shocked. Nursery said the boy and his parents were alright but they had to report it to social work in Edinburgh because FZV was still legally under their care.

70. [FZV] and I got into a routine where she would run into my room in the morning and we would talk and cuddle in my bed. It was at these times she would say random things. [FZV] said to me that [FZS] came into her room, did a 'roly-poly' on her and it really hurt. That gave me a sinking feeling in my stomach. It was hard to get her to elaborate on that. To [FZV] a 'roly-poly' was a forward roll because she was doing gymnastics then.
71. Inbetween all of this [FZV] was a happy, sociable wee girl. She was almost overly sociable and had no stranger awareness or that normal apprehension when she met new people. [FZV] was a loving and empathetic little girl. She worried about the little babies in nursery. She wanted to go into the baby and toddler rooms and check on the babies to make sure they were okay. The staff said she should be spending time in the big children's room with children her own age. At the park, [FZV] would say we had to look after the babies and toddlers and she worried if they fell over. My mum reported [FZV] playing at rescuing the babies and saying, "We need to save the babies."
72. As we got into 2016, the behaviours continued. [FZV] talked about weird things. For example, she said to me she was going to stab me in the bum hole or she was going to get a fork and stab me in the heart. [FZV] talked a lot about monsters. I wondered what she had been watching on TV at the foster carers. [FZV] was terrified of the police and said the police would come and get her if she was naughty. I had to work on that with her, so she would see the police as someone you would go to for help.
73. [FZV] was very physical with my body. There was a Looked After Child Review meeting with the nursery manager, keyworker, me and Sarah Goulding. The keyworker said [FZV] was over familiar with the keyworker's breasts and trying to put her hands down the keyworker's top. I didn't know how age appropriate that was and, at the meeting, Sarah said it was normal. At that time, I was defending [FZV] too and I might have said, "Wasn't it normal exploration?"

74. I noticed that when we were in the company of men, [FZV] was overly touchy and affectionate with them. Examples are [FZV] sitting on men's knees when she doesn't know the man, trying to put her hands in the man's pockets to feel their privates or putting her hand down their shirt. I would have to remove [FZV] from them.
75. We went on a trip to Butlins and stopped overnight at my male cousin's home. [FZV] wanted to sit on his knee. She was crawling all over him and tried to feel his genitals. It was awkward because what she did was very subtle and it wasn't quite clear what she was doing. It was hard to correct because you didn't want to make a big deal of it and embarrass her.
76. In late 2016, [FZV] complained about having sore and itchy privates. I took her to our General Practitioner (GP), Doctor Gray. The GP didn't want to examine her unnecessarily and said it was common for girls [FZV] age to get vaginal thrush because their hygiene isn't always great. The GP asked if [FZV] had a history of sexual abuse and I said no.
77. [FZV] got some cream and I supervised her putting it on. [FZV] asked me if I could put the cream on and I asked my social worker if it was okay. The social worker said it was because I was her mum. I don't actually know what a little girl's vagina is supposed to look like but there was something that just wasn't right. It looked bumpy. I didn't explore that further and it was a passing thought.
78. In August 2017 when [FZV] was five years and [redacted] old, she started Primary One at school. She was deferred a year because she was adopted. Nothing significant had happened for a while. [FZV] was settled with me, we had a family routine and nursery was good.
79. When [FZV] started school, some things started to change. One day after school, we were watching TV. [FZV] mounted my leg and rubbed her vagina on it in a sexualised way. I stood up immediately and asked her what she was doing. I didn't mention this to the social workers at this stage because I was embarrassed and thought maybe she was playing. This kept happening and I was really concerned.

80. [FZV] was also having night sweats and would be soaked through during the night, as if she'd been in the shower. My social worker had changed because Sarah Goulding had left the agency. I'd had a great relationship with Sarah and she was always my first point of call with any worries. I had another social worker from the agency, Lorna McFarlane, but I hadn't met her and didn't have a rapport with her.
81. As this was going on, I had been back to the GP and said I was worried about some behaviours. I told her about the leg thing and that [FZV] was having night sweats. The GP said she would refer [FZV] to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) because there might be some night terrors going on. She also gave me some strategies, such as using a worry box. [FZV] could write down her worries, put them in the box and then we talk about things that were worrying her.

Reporting of further indicators of abuse in Foster Care

82. I was not told what the process was for reporting concerns. There was no written guidance or leaflets. I was not told what would happen after reporting a concern.
83. I mentioned to Sarah Goulding about [FZV] displaying her bum to my male friend. She said some kids do like to be naked.
84. After [FZV] had grabbed a boy in his privates at nursery and this was reported to Stirling Social Work, they came back and said that was normal age and stage curiosity. I didn't know any better, so I believed them.
85. I was writing down and reporting these incidents. The reports went to Sarah Goulding and then to Chris Jack. Sometimes the reports went directly to Chris because he would come to see how [FZV] was getting on or would phone me. I reported that [FZV] said [FZS] did a 'roly poly' on her and it hurt, either to Sarah Goulding or Chris Jack.

86. Again, I don't know who I reported to first but I reported to either Sarah Goulding or Chris Jack, that FZV had been crawling over my male cousin and had tried to feel his genitals. I was again told it was just curiosity.
87. Before the adoption order goes through court, FZV was still the responsibility of Edinburgh Council and they had to have Looked After and Accommodated Child Reviews (LAAC Reviews) every three months. The reviews did not take place every three months but there were some formal meetings which included nursery teachers, Chris Jack and Sarah Goulding. All of the concerning behaviours were discussed at these meetings.
88. I told my GP about FZV rubbing herself on my leg and having night sweats.

Reunion with FZS-FZT

89. I had reported the early indicators of abuse on 15th October 2015. The council had said they'd never had any concerns about the FZS-FZT in twenty years and didn't have any now and other professionals had told me that her odd behaviours were normal age and stage appropriate curiosities. As a result, I was brainwashed into believing this too. I was made to feel so much like an over-anxious and over-dramatic new mother that I began to believe it.
90. I actually felt bad for the FZS-FZT and guilty about complaining about them. The social workers had ingrained in me that I was over worrying and I doubted myself. By 2017 a year had passed and FZV was missing them. She was asking to see them. I stupidly contacted them and said FZV would like to see them, would they like to meet in a neutral place?
91. We met them in a park. The FZS-FZT told me not to worry and there were lots of false allegations against foster carers. They were calmer and nicer generally and made more of an effort with FZV and me. I was taken aback by how different they were. They told me who they had fostered since and who they had now, including two

sisters who were older than they normally have, about three or four years old. Normally they only fostered babies. The fostering of the sisters hadn't worked out. I thought that was strange.

92. FZV saw the FZS-FZT that day and another day for lunch in a family pub but then didn't want to see them again. Much later, once FZV was getting therapy, the psychologist explained that she probably wanted to see them to say they couldn't hurt her anymore, she was now in control and with her mummy. The psychologist explained it was actually a good opportunity for FZV as she could tell I was feeling guilty about organising this reunion.

Referral to the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)

93. The referral to CAMHS was in 2017 but the first appointment came in 2018 when FZV was six years old. I went with FZV and met Emma Stockton. She was a mental health worker who had trained as a social worker. Emma chatted to us and FZV became distressed and completely zoned out. It was horrible to see. Emma told me that FZV had disassociated. Emma asked me to go back the following week by myself.
94. I went back for a further two appointments and took a lot of the paperwork which I have, including the email with the responses from FZS and FZT about the earlier allegations made by FZV. Emma read the email and said she was concerned because there were a lot of red flags about what FZS was saying. For example, there was any excuse for FZS to give FZV a bath. It was at the third appointment in July 2018, that Emma said she thought FZV had been sexually abused.
95. Although I thought the foster carers were inappropriate carers, I still didn't make that leap to believing FZV had been sexually abused. I got annoyed at Emma and asked what she was basing that on and how could she make a big statement like that? I said that everyone else had been saying that the behaviours were age and stage

appropriate. Emma said she was sorry but she disagreed and the behaviours, taken together, were not normal.

96. I went home from the appointment having been told my child had been sexually abused and with absolutely no advice about what to do about that. Emma said sexual abuse was hard to prove and, because [FZV] hadn't said anything in detail, she didn't think there was anything I could do about it.
97. Emma said at the last appointment that she was going to speak to the Council and she would write to my doctor. However, the professionals didn't speak to each other and I found out in April 2019, after waiting to hear from them for almost a year, that Emma did not carry out those actions. Emma said in 2018, CAMHS could get [FZV] back if needed but, at this time, it was distressing for her to be in that situation. Emma said she would refer [FZV] to the next tier, which was a psychologist. However, there had been nothing further from CAMHS for nearly a year after I was told that my child had been sexually abused. I was abandoned.
98. I know what the National Health Service is like and I was waiting for a letter to say what happened next. I saw my GP who tried to support me and told me to keep a note of everything [FZV] told me. I didn't want to ask [FZV] anything because I didn't want to put anything in her head.
99. As the months passed, I got angry at not hearing anything. My GP chased it up. In April 2019, when [FZV] was seven years old, I complained by letter to CAMHS. I got a phone call from a senior person at CAMHS and then a letter dated July 2018 from Emma Stockton. The letter states what she thinks are [FZV] issues, such as anxiety, night sweats and what she thought the source was. The letter was not complete and had a lot of inaccuracies in it that made me angry. For example, saying [FZV] was the subject of domestic abuse in her birth family. These little mistakes have consequences.
100. I went back to CAMHS in April 2019 to have a meeting with Emma Stockton and her senior colleague to talk things over and ask for help. In hindsight, I feel bad because I

was angry and quite mean to Emma when she was the only person in the whole situation who took me seriously and was right. I was frustrated with her and part of me was wanting her not to be right. Emma also hadn't carried out any of the actions which she said she was going to do.

101. I told them I needed advice on how to deal with the behaviours. They said they couldn't do that and I needed to go back to social work. CAMHS suggested I go to a charity called Wellbeing Scotland for advice on managing the behaviours.
102. I self-referred myself to Wellbeing Scotland saying I was looking for advice on managing my child's behaviours. I wasn't looking for counselling. It took them ages to get back to me and, when they did, I had to go to a woman's house. The woman was a psychotherapist and was expecting me for a therapy session. I explained I wasn't there for therapy but for practical advice. The woman said I had to do therapy first because I couldn't help ^{FZV} without talking about my childhood.
103. I felt I had to go along with the therapy session. It was horrible and I hated it. I went back for a second session which was unbelievable. The woman told me my dead father was in the room with us. I made a complaint to the Board of Psychotherapists about it. My complaint was upheld and the woman faced disciplinary action. The experience was a disaster and made things worse. As a result, I didn't go to any other agencies.

Reporting of opinion of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

104. I phoned Lorna McFarlane after my meeting with Emma Stockton in July 2018. I told her that Emma thought ^{FZV} had been sexually abused. Lorna's response was, that was absolute rubbish. Lorna said Emma didn't know me and hadn't really met ^{FZV}. I had two professionals giving me completely different opinions. Lorna talked me out of what Emma was saying. Lorna said she was experienced. Her experience was at her previous job in Glasgow where she dealt with removing children who had been

sexually abused from their homes. She said she was an expert in this and [FZV] was definitely a child who had not been sexually abused.

105. I didn't have a relationship with Lorna so I phoned Chris Jack as well. He just said he would take a note of it. That was it. I was not given any guidance or information about the procedure for reporting concerns or about the complaints procedure if I was unhappy about the council's position. There was nothing further from him. This was one of the hardest times for me because I was stuck between the professional in CAMHS and the professionals who were social workers, saying they were more experienced and not to listen to CAMHS.

Disclosures of abuse in Foster Care

106. [FZV] had moved schools in the summer of 2018 and we moved house in March 2019 when [FZV] was seven years old. After we moved, the really horrible stuff started happening and [FZV] started disclosing sexual abuse in detail. [FZV] has told me in the last few months that, during the co-ordination week, [FZS] told her if she told me anything, he would come to the house in the middle of the night, break in, stab me in the heart and kill me and [FZV]. On reflection it is likely [FZV] only began to disclose what happened to her because we moved house and she knew [FZS] couldn't break in and kill her.
107. At school, they had a visit from the National Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) to educate them on our private parts, why they are private and that people shouldn't touch them. This was a turning point for [FZV] because, to her, it was bizarre that private parts are private. [FZV] became uncharacteristically quiet for a few days and I was worried about her.
108. Then [FZV] began to masturbate herself several times a day, for example in the living room. I asked CAMHS if that was age and stage appropriate. It began to impact [FZV] daily life, for example we would run late for school because I couldn't get [FZV] out of bed. [FZV] made comments about men which were sexualised. For example,

she said men on TV were handsome but they were all middle-aged men and older. It was as if she was sexually attracted to these men.

109. On 23 May 2019, I was tucking [FZV] into bed. This was the first detailed disclosure but [FZV] was talking about it as if it was a dream. She said she'd had bad dreams and didn't want to go to sleep. The bad dreams were about men making her lick their bums. I asked who was making her do that and she said her friend [REDACTED] I said, "Oh really, [REDACTED] was making you?" and [FZV] said no, it was [FZS] and he had a really hairy willy. A child that age is not going to dream about that out of their imagination.
110. On 4 June 2019, [FZV] was feeding her rabbits and asked me if boy rabbits had willies. She repeated that [FZS] had a really hairy willy. She said, "You can't even see his willy, it's that hairy and it's grey." [FZV] said she loved men because they were handsome and gave her lollipops.
111. The disclosures continued. It was as if [FZV] was testing me to see what my reaction would be. The sexualised behaviours at home were getting worse. One day [FZV] was quiet and withdrawn. I asked what was on her mind. [FZV] told me she was having bad dreams about [FZS] showing her his willy. She demonstrated and had one hand on her groin, the other on her head and she was thrusting and dancing. [FZV] said [FZS] put his willy in her face and it was smelly.
112. [FZV] said when she was having a bath, [FZS] took his clothes off, came into the bath and peed in the bath. She said he put runny soap on her hair that came down onto her face and into her eyes. [FZV] said she didn't like [FZS] This was the first time that [FZV] was verbalising that she didn't like the foster carers.
113. On 3 July 2019, we were in the car. Subsequently, a lot of disclosures took place in the car where we didn't have eye contact. [FZV] said she had a day dream of a speech bubble with [FZS] face in it. She said it was a warning [FZS] was going to come and get her. [FZV] said [FZS] made her angry and that he made her unconscious. She told me unconscious meant you felt uncomfortable and weird.

114. The police interviewed [FZV] on 9 July 2019 and, after they left, she said that [FZS] had touched her privates in a bad way. [FZV] demonstrated by pulling her trousers up really hard at the groin area. She said [FZS] would pull on her privates really hard and it really hurt. I said I was sorry and this shouldn't have happened to her. [FZV] collapsed on the floor and started crying. It was a hard day.
115. On 11 July 2019, we were in the car and [FZV] asked me to play a song that the NSPCC taught them in school. It's called The Pantasaurus Song and is about a dinosaur teaching you that what is in your pants is private. [FZV] asked me if it was okay that she saw my privates. I said it was okay when we got changed but it wasn't okay to touch someone's privates without asking. [FZV] said it was okay for me to touch hers, if it was sore. I said it was if she needed cream but I would have to ask her first.
116. [FZV] then told me that [FZS] hurt her privates. She said [FZS] and [FZS] cousin touched her privates, together, and [FZS] told his cousin to touch her vagina. She said [FZS] cousin touched her vagina and it really hurt. [FZV] then said that [FZS] cousin told [FZS] to touch "where her baby comes out of". She said [FZS] pushed in with his fingers hard and it really hurt. [FZV] told me she cried and they told her to go to bed, nothing happened and stop whining. She said [FZS] cousin came round to [FZS] house a lot and this happened more than once. When [FZV] called someone a cousin, it could mean they were a family friend.
117. I pulled the car over and asked, if I phoned Chris Jack and put him on loudspeaker, could she tell him what she'd told me? I phoned Chris and she repeated what she'd said. It was a relief for me because I was proving what she was telling me. Chris called the police again and a second interview was arranged for 25 July 2019.
118. On 13 July 2019, [FZV] was quiet and tired. She said she couldn't sleep because she couldn't get it out of her head. She demonstrated by taking her pants down, saying [FZS] took his trousers and pants down and grabbed her. She said she tried to get away from him but couldn't. She said he put his willy in her bum cheeks and she

- demonstrated a thrusting action. FZV said he was slow and then went fast, it was really sore and she couldn't get away.
119. Then, FZV said FZS told her to go to bed, say nothing happened and be quiet about it to FZT. This happened when she was watching children's television and FZT was out for a walk. FZV told me that she told FZT what happened because she was upset and crying. FZT said she was talking rubbish and she was to go to bed.
120. On 24 July 2019, the night before the second police interview, I checked with FZV that she was still okay to talk to the police. FZV repeated what she had disclosed already but in more detail. She told me FZS cousin came into her room and kept touching her vagina. She said FZS and his cousin took turns, in a pattern. FZV put her hands over her vagina and they pulled her hands away.
121. FZV said FZS hurt her bum while watching TV every day. She said he went slow then fast until he was "done", when he would "wipe the goo and walk away". FZV said the goo was on her bum and she knew when he was finished because he would walk away. FZS said to her nothing happened and she wasn't to tell anyone. When she told FZT, FZT said she would have seen it happen and FZV must be making it up. FZV described FZS having bad breath, not talking and just breathing all the time.
122. On 9 December 2019, FZV began to disclose more in terms of physical abuse. She described FZS picking her up by the hips, throwing her in the air and landing on a table. This happened in the living room. FZV described the pattern of the table and what it was made of. FZV told me FZS threw her against the wall in her bedroom. She said she had shower gel deliberately put in her face and eyes at bath time because she was being naughty. FZV said baby spoons were forced in her mouth and throat to make her eat. She didn't say which of the FZS-FZT had done that.
123. FZV made a lot of disclosures in December 2019, when she was almost eight years old. She said FZS had slapped her on the face all the time. She repeated that FZS had thrown her against the wall in her bedroom when she was naughty and against

the "flat wall". FZV repeated that FZS had done a roly poly on her. I tried to get her to explain what that was but she couldn't or didn't want to. FZV incident where she burst her lower lip. She said she couldn't be sure if she slipped but FZS said to her that she slipped and nothing happened. FZV said she thinks she was unconscious and I wondered how she knew this word.

124. FZV said FZT shouted and threw plates in the kitchen. One time the plate smashed on the floor. FZT made FZV sweep it up with her bare hands and withheld the dustpan and brush from her. FZV cut her hand and has a scar from that. FZV talks a lot about that scar and how she got it.
125. Since I last spoke to the police, FZV has disclosed that FZS performed oral sex on her. There are other disclosures which are of the same nature as previous disclosures but slightly different. FZV has begun to disclose psychological and verbal abuse. When I sent FZV the photo album before adoption, FZS and FZT said her new mummy was ugly and fat. They said I had blue eyes and she had brown, so everyone would know I wasn't her real mummy. After I met FZV the first day, FZS and FZT said to her that I was never going to love her.
126. FZV continues to make new disclosures of physical, mental and sexual abuse at the hands of the FZS-FZT as well as repeating what she has previously disclosed. She is getting older now so she is better able to use vocabulary to describe her experiences. FZV describes sexual abuse and rape by FZS as part of her daily routine. She has described how she doesn't like having catarrh in her throat because it reminds her of FZS goo. She says he would often insert his penis down her throat and push it back and forward until she couldn't breathe and then his goo would come out in her throat. FZV says when he did this she thought she was going to die. She would choke on the goo and gasp for breath. FZV has a continuous tick now of clearing her throat and nose.
127. FZV describes FZS being heavy and lying on her when he put his penis in her vagina. She says she could not move or breathe and that FZS was so heavy that it hurt.

128. FZV describes being force fed with a baby spoon on a regular basis. The spoon would be shoved down her throat. At other times FZS and FZT would not bother giving her food. She was always hungry.
129. FZV has been having difficulties with toileting and bowel problems and has been seeing a paediatrician at the hospital for this. Since this has been ongoing she has disclosed that FZS would not let her go to the toilet and she would then defecate on the floor. FZS would get angry and hit her and shout at her. He would lift her and throw her down on the toilet seat with no child seat. At other times when she needed to defecate she would be put on the toilet without a child seat and would fall down the toilet and land in her own faeces. Then FZS would hit her. She said at other times he would shove objects that she describes like sticks up her anus and tell her it was to stop the poo coming out. She said this hurt a lot.
130. I don't believe these are the end of the disclosures FZV will make about her life living with the FZS-FZT.

Abuse of other children in Foster Care

131. FZV and I were writing Christmas cards in December 2019. I asked FZV if she wanted to write a card to anyone and she said FZT. FZV said FZT wasn't bad all the time and sometimes she was nice. FZV then said FZS hurt people with his willy. I asked what she meant and FZV said they would have bath time and she would run up the stairs because it wasn't bath time, it was, "willy hurting time."
132. FZV said FZS put his willy in the baby's bum and then demonstrated, with a dolly, FZS raping the baby. She made a facial expression that could only be described as an erotic expression. She said the baby was crying and that FZS did this to the babies, turn by turn. She said this happened a lot.

Reporting of disclosures of abuse in Foster Care to Social Work

133. I hadn't spoken to Chris Jack for a while however I phoned him after the disclosure of 4 June 2019 because I didn't have the relationship with the social worker from my agency any more. I was now [FZV] legal parent and didn't have support from social workers imposed on me, unless I requested it.
134. I told Chris what [FZV] had said, that was serious now and I was very worried, bearing in mind I had told him that Emma Stockton thought [FZV] had been sexually abused and nothing had been actioned about that. Chris Jack agreed it was concerning and told me to take a note of everything [FZV] said. He said he would speak to his manager.
135. Chris came back to me and said he had spoken to his senior managers and they were having an incident meeting with the police, social workers, healthcare workers and others. After the meeting, Chris said that they were concerned and asked if [FZV] could speak to the police. [FZV] did want to speak to the police. The interview was set up by Chris with the police.

Reporting of disclosures of abuse in Foster Care to Police

136. The first police interview was on 9 July 2019, following the incident meeting. A specialist, trained female police officer called Caitlin came to our house with a duty social worker. It was [FZV] choice to be interviewed at home. The police officer was wonderful and child centred. [FZV] instantly felt comfortable with her, as did I. The interview took the form of open questions and clarifying questions and was filmed. [FZV] was brave but distressed at times. I stayed in the living room with Chris Jack and [FZV] was in her bedroom with the police officer and the duty social worker. [FZV] spoke to the police about the disclosures she had made to me. I was so proud of her.

137. The police gave me a summary of what [FZV] had said and Chris phoned me the next day. No action was taken at that time. Chris said the police were concerned but there was nothing [FZV] said that they could act on. The [FZS-FZT] were still fostering and had a little girl.
138. I was not given any guidance or information on the procedure or what happens when a report of this kind is made. I was not told what follow up there would be. I didn't know what to expect. What I did find out was only through asking questions about the procedure.
139. The second police interview was on 25 July 2019, after [FZV] disclosed abuse by [FZS] and [FZS] cousin. The report to the police was made by Chris Jack. It wasn't felt appropriate to interview [FZV] at a police station. At first Chris proposed the interview take place at our local community centre. I said, no way. Everyone knew us and would wonder what [FZV] was doing in a room with a camera.
140. The interview took place at a community centre in Stirling. I was uncomfortable with the arrangements and concerned about confidentiality. The room was in a busy corridor where people could have overheard and you could see into the room. It was with the same female police officer and a different duty social worker, which threw [FZV] at first. The interview was filmed.
141. [FZV] was able to tell the police what she had told me. She said [FZS] cousin was called [ECX] but I wasn't convinced and felt she thought she had to say a name. [FZV] couldn't describe him because he always wore a hoody and kept the hood up. It was therapeutic for [FZV] to tell the police and you could see the physical release in her.
142. Chris Jack phoned me and said [FZV] did well and told the police things that were actionable. The same day they removed the child that was fostered by the [FZS-FZT]. I was able to share that with [FZV] and that made her feel good.

143. FZV went for a forensic examination and gave a blood test. She was so brave. Sadly, the report was definitive. It said the examination found signs of sexual abuse and penetration and FZV had damage to her vagina and anal canal. Chris Jack explained to me that it was rare to get a definitive report and the examinations were normally inconclusive.
144. I asked for a copy of the report but the doctor said it was in medical jargon. The implication was that I wouldn't understand it. I had to request FZV medical records in order to get a copy. I think that was wrong and, as FZV parent, I should have been entitled to a copy.
145. When the report came back, it was wrong and said I lived with a man who was present at the examination. That would have a huge impact if that report went to court in the future. I had to complain about that and the explanation given was that it was a dictated letter and the doctor's first language wasn't English. There was something wrong in every process that took place.
146. After the results of FZV forensic examination came back, I asked the police why FZS hadn't been arrested because they had all this evidence from FZV and a positive forensic test. The police explained the law about corroboration and said they couldn't arrest him without corroboration. They said if FZV was in England FZS would be arrested and charged. I think, and the police and social workers think, that the reason FZS and FZT only fostered pre-verbal children was that the abuse couldn't be corroborated. The reason they didn't want FZV to be adopted and tried to put me off adopting her was because she was older and she could talk.
147. I made a statement to the police in the first week of August 2019. It was soon after FZV second interview and before her forensic examination. Giving the statement was hard. My experience with the police was good and bad. Detective Constable Nicholas Keith, from the Public Protection Unit in Edinburgh, contacted me. He was nice and he asked to come out to speak to me. I wasn't comfortable with doing a police statement in my home and I didn't want the memory of it in my home. I asked

repeatedly if we could do it somewhere else, at a police station or meeting halfway, but DC Keith just said no. I felt pushed into having the meeting in my house.

148. DC Keith came to the house on his own. He was professional and compassionate but I thought it was strange, me being a woman on my own, making a statement about this topic to a man on his own. I hadn't talked to anyone official and I was nervous, especially about the things I'd have to say. It was awkward and embarrassing.
149. I assumed DC Keith would be highly trained but when we started to do the statement he asked if I was a foster carer. I explained I was FZV adoptive mum and he kept asking who were FZV mum and dad. I didn't think that was relevant. DC Keith wasn't properly briefed. He said the meeting had just landed on his desk and asked for ten minutes to read through some things. I appreciated that honesty and we started the interview again.
150. DC Keith asked whether I'd ever thought of calling the police myself and that made me feel bad and guilty. I wouldn't have thought of phoning the police on the smack alone because smacking was still legal and FZV hadn't made disclosures of actual abuse, at the point I contacted the social workers.
151. Giving the statement was exhausting and laborious because DC Keith had to write everything down and I had to sign each page. It took two and half days and on the subsequent days I managed to get DC Keith to meet me at St Leonard's Police Station in Edinburgh. That was around 6th August 2019. I was surprised that the police couldn't video my statement. DC Keith was thorough and was taking it seriously. As we were going through the statement, I'd take breaks and I asked questions about the process and criminal procedure.
152. Things went sour with the police. After giving the statement, I didn't hear anything from them. I had some general questions, like how long did these things take, because I didn't understand police procedure. I wasn't questioning the police investigation. I hadn't been given guidance or information about the process in a leaflet or other written form. I found out about the process by asking questions as things were

happening and as I went along. It was itty bitty. For example, corroboration only came up because I raised the question about why [FZS] wasn't arrested yet. I asked Chris Jack who said he'd get someone to phone me and I could ask them questions.

153. Detective Sergeant Gordon Couper phoned me and said he was the lead on the case. I felt like I was the perpetrator because he was talking me like I was. I was asking him questions that I thought were reasonable, such as what happened now and would they question the foster carers. He was aggressive, abrasive and unsympathetic.
154. DS Couper took my questions as me questioning his investigation and raised his voice at me. DS Couper told me I didn't have a right to know about the investigation or to ask him questions. It was awful. I came off the phone and I was crying because he was so horrible to me. I didn't understand what happened. I wondered if he was having a bad day and I got him at the wrong time.
155. When [FZV] made disclosures about physical abuse in December 2019, I emailed Chris Jack and asked if the police would want to know and if it was relevant. I wanted to know if the police had enough to work on or if I should keep telling them what [FZV] was saying. The police said to keep of note of what [FZV] said and keep telling them.
156. I reported [FZV] disclosure in December 2019 about [FZS] raping babies in the bathroom, straight away. DS Couper and DC Keith came to talk to me at home and take a statement. I got child care for [FZV]. Some time had passed since my previous statement and it was the first time I'd met Gordon Couper in person. He was personable when he came in and sat there while Nicholas Keith took the statement. Nicholas Keith was very compassionate and you could tell he was affected by it. Just because of my naivety, I asked if they dealt with this kind of stuff a lot. They said they didn't get this a lot and it was bad.
157. Once the statement was taken and finished, Gordon Couper's manner, and the way he spoke to me, completely changed. He said he had heard I was asking about the National Child Abuse Investigation Unit in Livingston. I said I had. I had asked why [FZV] case was with the Public Protection Unit and not with the National Child Abuse

Investigation Unit. On speaking hypothetically to a social worker friend, I had been told that complex cases were sent to that unit. FZV case ticked the boxes as a complex case.

158. Gordon Couper asked why I was asking about that and who told me about that unit. He was interrogating me, as if I had done something wrong. Gordon Couper got really angry and said there was no difference between the units, they were dealing with it and I had no right to ask questions. I could see Nicholas Keith looked shocked at the way Gordon Couper was behaving and he butted in to try and make small chat. I was getting upset, to the point where I couldn't respond. I was in shock at this police officer coming to my home and speaking to me like this.
159. I said to Gordon Couper, could he not tell me anything because it was difficult when FZV asked me why FZS was not in prison yet and I couldn't explain to her why. I said it was difficult to parent a child in this situation. Gordon Couper stood to leave and said, "Yes, well FZU everyone's in the same situation." It completely broke me. I just couldn't wait to get him out of my house. After that, I gave up and I didn't want to speak to the police again. I don't know if FZV case ever went to the National Child Abuse Investigation Unit. I felt if I had contact with Nicholas Keith it would fine but I didn't want to see Gordon Couper again.
160. I asked if I should contact them about further disclosures and Gordon Couper said to note them but they couldn't keep coming out every time FZV said something to re-interview her, which is fair enough. I haven't reported further disclosures. I don't think you could get worse than what has already been said. FZV talks a lot and something new comes out every day.
161. In November 2020, I got a phone call out of the blue from Gordon Couper. I hadn't heard from him for a year during the whole Covid pandemic. Gordon Couper said he was phoning to let me know that the investigation into FZT and FZS had been closed. He said it didn't even get to the Procurator Fiscal, who makes the decision whether to prosecute. Some senior police officers who have a meeting to review cases decided the case would close due to lack of corroboration.

162. Gordon Couper said that in 2020, during the pandemic, they had approached the 25 other children that they wanted to approach. He said a few of the kids didn't live in this country anymore so that made it difficult. My gut instinct is that I don't believe him. I don't believe the resources or the effort was put into identifying and talking to the other children who were in the placement at the same time as FZV. I don't think the police have enough resources to do that during a pandemic and I don't think they thought the case was worth the resources.
163. Gordon Couper said the case would be filed and, if anything came up in the future, it would be cross-referenced. I was expecting that from the day when the police said corroboration was needed. It was as if they had already decided there wouldn't be any corroboration. Gordon Couper asked if I had any questions and I didn't. There wasn't much I could do. I was angry but not surprised.
164. I thought about it and then I contacted my local Rape Crisis Centre. I asked for advice on making a complaint. An advocacy worker phoned Gordon Couper to ask questions and he said the same thing to her. She said there was no way to know what the police had done and you had to trust they had done the work. I find that unbelievable. It makes me additionally sad and poignant because I spent so much time convincing FZV that the police were people who would always help and keep her safe.
165. As a citizen, there is nothing you can do. You can complain about police officers' conduct. You can't make a complaint about an investigation because you don't know if there's anything to complain about. For example, I don't believe the police have searched the FZS-FZT home or FZS devices. I'm sure if the police had then they would have found something, like photos.
166. I think the police have just gone through the motions. That was why one of my questions was why FZV case hadn't gone to the centre in Livingston which was specifically for child abuse cases. FZV case would have had more resources there. The advocacy worker said I couldn't complain about that because that choice is for the police to make.

167. I was surprised the case didn't go to the Procurator Fiscal. Apparently, the police can only do that if they have some sort of corroboration, in that the person has behaved in that way to another child. I was frustrated. A few months after FZV [REDACTED] third interview, Chris Jack had told me that [REDACTED] was displaying behaviours of the same nature as FZV [REDACTED] and the little girl who was removed because of FZV [REDACTED] statement, had a forensic examination which wasn't as definite as FZV [REDACTED] but was questionable, as in maybe she had been abused. Chris Jack was being nice by telling me this, saying FZV [REDACTED] had done a great thing and social work didn't think it was just FZV [REDACTED] this had happened to.
168. The FZS-FZT [REDACTED] are getting older now and are retired. That's good because they're not working with children but I keep envisaging them enjoying their retirement and their home. Nothing changes for them. It's hard and disappointing.

The City of Edinburgh Council Children and Families Department

169. Prior to going into adoption, I had no experience with social work or local authorities in that capacity. I was open minded and looking forward to this journey. When the adoption process started with Edinburgh Council, it immediately became frustrating and I had a turbulent experience with them. A lot of that was around social work not getting back to me, not doing reviews, not getting minutes for meetings and having emails ignored.
170. In December 2016 I put a complaint in and my social worker supported me with that. I didn't know the complaints procedure at the time and I couldn't find anything on the Council website. I thought the best person to complain to was Chris Jack's boss, John Stevenson, who I'd seen copied into emails. I had not been given any guidance, information or a leaflet about the complaints procedure.
171. The complaint was sent to John Stevenson, the Community and Family Children's Services Team Manager for the North-West locality of the council. To me, he was the first point of contact. The letter was quite clearly a complaint. It was five pages long

and said complaint on it. I thought John Stevenson would act on my complaint as the line manager of Chris. The response to the complaint gives a good idea of what it was like to deal with the Council later, over the abuse. The complaint was typed, posted and emailed but wasn't acknowledged. The Council did not follow any complaints procedure.

172. FZV had a visitation with her birth family every three months at the council offices at Edinburgh, up until April 2018. My sister and I took FZV to a visitation on 11th April 2017 at 11.30 am. Carol McCulloch introduced herself as a social worker in Children's Services and asked to have a word with me. The meeting was sprung on me and wasn't planned. At first Carol McCulloch was friendly. Eventually, she said if I didn't withdraw my complaint, the council would not support FZV adoption. By this point, FZV had been living with me for a year.
173. My sister witnessed this and wrote a transcript of the meeting. I called my social worker, Lorna McFarlane and told her what happened. She said she would speak to the council. Lorna came back to me a few days later and said that Carol McCulloch denied saying that.
174. I got an email from John Stevenson. The email said he understood from my meeting with Carol McCulloch that I felt I had made a formal complaint to him. John Stevenson said he had an exchange of communications with me in December 2016 but he was not aware that I raised a formal complaint and I had to raise a complaint with another department. That was contradictory to what Carol McCulloch was saying, which was that I had to withdraw my complaint.
175. It was only then that John Stevenson said what the process was for making complaints, which was simply to give me the address to send a complaint to. The address was the same address but a Complaints Department, instead of directly to John Stevenson. There was no guidance, information or leaflet on what the complaints process was and what I could expect.

176. I didn't send my complaint to the Complaints Department because I loved FZV and I didn't want to lose her. Carol McCulloch had threatened not to approve the adoption, if I didn't withdraw the complaint that John Stevenson said I hadn't made. After that, I didn't speak to Edinburgh Council on the phone and I did everything by email. My social worker did the home checks on behalf of the council and visited to make sure we were okay. I felt powerless.
177. The handling of my complaint and of me is an example of the culture in Edinburgh Council and how they treated people who were doing something good by adopting children. When it came to reporting the abuse, it wasn't surprising that not much was getting done. It wasn't until FZV had the vocabulary and was able to say what had happened that action was taken. I think action should have been taken well before then.
178. There is definitely a culture issue within Edinburgh Council. It's not just a policy and process issue. To say that someone has been a foster carer for twenty years and there hasn't been a problem with them before doesn't prove their innocence. For local authorities, it's always the easy way out. They don't want more work added to a workload that is already huge. There is a culture of passing the buck, taking a note or looking into an issue.
179. My experience of social workers hasn't been positive, apart from Sarah Goulding. The rest of them have compassion fatigue. It might be from years of dealing with children who come from complex backgrounds. The social workers are saturated with these kids so that it becomes the norm and they don't see children who don't have bad experiences in their life. Therefore, things are missed. Social workers lower their expectations of what that child's life should be like. I don't know how many times I heard, "That's normal for an adopted child."
180. Although social workers would say they would speak to their line manager, there didn't seem to be any accountability. The social workers and line managers all seemed like they were friends and they backed each other up, no matter what. You meet other adopters throughout the adoption process and training. Every other adopter's

experience, in dealing with their local authority, was so much different to mine. My opinion is that there is a deep problem in Edinburgh City Children and Family Services.

181. I couldn't fault Chris Jack or the council after my phone call to him in June 2019. Chris became more helpful. I think he felt a bit destroyed himself that this had happened to [FZV]. Chris Jack told me the police were identifying the children who had been in the [FZS-FZT] care at the same time as [FZV] and approaching them to hopefully interview them. It was problematic because the children were all very young and pre-verbal, their memory wasn't going to be great and they won't always be able to give descriptions. I didn't have any trust and confidence that the police were putting much into the investigation.
182. I think Chris Jack was affected by what happened and he kept in touch with me, to reassure me that social work were investigating and doing something. The [FZS-FZT] were interviewed by the police. I thought they weren't interviewed soon enough. Chris explained to me that the [FZS-FZT] were given notice they were being arrested for questioning so they could get their lawyers in place. I thought that was bizarre. I got some feedback by way of a phone call from a police officer. The [FZS-FZT] said no comment throughout the whole thing. I can't remember when the interview was. It was probably within four or five months of [FZV] giving her statements.
183. When Chris Jack and I reflected on events later, Chris said that in hindsight, [FZT] and [FZS] were behaving in an obstructive manner as if they were not ready for [FZV] to leave despite being experienced at having children move on. The dates of the co-ordination week had had to be changed and Chris had had to go out to see them because they weren't happy about the dates. The dates had been moved back several times because [FZS] and [FZT] weren't prepared.

Impact

184. You see the impact of what has happened to [FZV] on a daily basis. [FZV] has been left with permanent scars from abuse and has physical reminders. She has permanent

damage that affects her to this day. For example, she has pain when she goes to the toilet.

185. The psychological scars are huge. She is a bubbly, joyful little girl but, now she is in therapy, the counsellors are saying the joyfulness is her shield. She uses it to cover up and so she doesn't let her guard down. FZV is diagnosed with Complex Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). She suffers from hypervigilance and disassociation. FZV is fearful and anxious at times.
186. The Notre Dame Centre, where FZV attends for therapy, have made it clear to me that she is severely traumatised. Sometimes FZV takes on the role of the adult carer and the therapist is the child. The therapist says what FZV acts out is really abusive and shocking but it is important that it comes out.
187. The whole experience has impacted FZV learning and her learning is delayed. Due to her hypervigilance, trauma and PTSD, she finds it hard to concentrate in class. That is because of all the noises.
188. FZV sleep and dreams are affected. FZV talks about nightmares a lot and she has flashbacks. She is still processing, and living with, these memories. It's probably a lifetime thing that she will have to learn to manage as she gets older.
189. FZV is great with friends her own age and with women but she needs a lot of work and assistance with her relationships with men. I've never left her in the company of a man on her own. That's more for the man, as well as for FZV. She has a lot to learn about what is healthy in relationships with men. FZV has some great male figures in her life who she can develop that with. She is learning that.
190. I worry about FZV future all the time. I have concerns about her going to high school. I have concerns about her hitting puberty and having healthy relationships with boys when she's older. I worry it will go one of two ways, where she's either promiscuous or fearful.

191. Sometimes I fantasise about moving somewhere new and starting afresh but why should I? I'd have to leave family and friends. It's not that I want to tell people about what happened to [FZV] but some people have to know. For example, her school have to know. The school wouldn't discuss it and it's confidential but people know very personal things about [FZV] and about me. It's hard to see a joyful future.
192. [FZV] and I live in fear. [FZV] talks about [FZS] coming to find her and break into the house. I have to reassure her that he doesn't know where we live. [FZS] and [FZT] know that it was [FZV] who made the allegations. I feel fearful that they are out there, getting on with life. [FZV] keeps asking when [FZS] is going to be in prison and it's hard to explain why he isn't.
193. I was so focused on the impact of all this on [FZV] that I didn't realise the impact it would have on me. I was made to feel like a new mother who was inexperienced, over-protective and over-worrying about things. I was made to feel like I wasn't a real mum who didn't know about children. It was a constant fight to be heard.
194. The situation with [FZV] relationships with men has had a big impact on me. I'm single. It would nice to have a partner at some point and I haven't been able to. The situation has affected me wanting to have a relationship. I want to teach [FZV] that there are good men in the world. That is hard and it will take time.
195. I had always planned to adopt another child but my experience with Edinburgh City Children and Family Services has completely put me off. You wouldn't want me to go and speak to other prospective adopters. I went into the process a sickeningly enthusiastic person, thinking everyone was doing such good. Sadly, it was complete naivety. I kept getting shocked and surprised that someone who was trying to adopt a child would be treated that way. If I was being treated like that, how do birth parents get treated? I'm not exaggerating when I say that, emotionally, that has been traumatic for me.
196. My dealings with social work were traumatic even before the abuse came out. I believe I have my own emotional trauma from my experiences with any and all national

agencies from social work, to the police, to NHS, to education. I dread having to deal with anyone from any statutory body ever again. I think I have secondary trauma from caring for a child with this level of abuse.

197. Dealing with Gordon Couper really traumatised me. I'm thick-skinned and not overly sensitive but it was horrific. I couldn't understand what I'd done wrong and why he was talking to me like he was. He had so much disdain towards me. Gordon Couper talked down to me like I was stupid and he interrogated me. It really changed my perspective on the police. Ever since, I keep thinking what did I do wrong and why is he talking to me that way, when I'm a witness and a mother of a victim? I had had to work on [FZV] and tell her the police are the people who you got to for help and I had always thought that myself. Having interactions like this is maybe why people don't like the police.
198. When all this started and [FZV] made statements to the police, it was such a horrific thing to go through. No-one provided me with a professional to speak to and the police told me I wasn't to talk to anyone. It was impossible. We are a close-knit family and my mum and sister knew something was going on. I didn't go into detail but I told my mum it was to do with the foster carers and I told my mum and my best friend there had been some abuse of a sexual nature.
199. I wasn't prepared for the reaction to that. I thought people would say it was awful and ask if I wanted to talk about it, like your friends normally do. Instead, people shut up and didn't want to know. It was a topic too far that people didn't want to talk about. I felt completely isolated. I really needed someone to talk to. I have some practical support from my friends and family but not the emotional support.
200. I've spent years driving [FZV] to appointments and interviews and not once has anyone asked if they can help cover costs. My work life has been affected because I have to work less to focus on [FZV] needs. That has a financial and emotional impact on me. There should be financial support for victims and their carers'.

Support / Counselling

201. A friend, who is a psychotherapist, recommended the Notre Dame Centre in Balmore Road, Glasgow. It is a specialist centre for children who have been abused. I asked my GP to refer FZV but she couldn't. I went CAMHS who said they could refer but they wouldn't fund that and I'd have to get Edinburgh Council to pay. CAMHS were constantly passing the buck. It is constantly a fight to get FZV seen by professionals and listened to.
202. It took months for Edinburgh Council to agree to pay. CAMHS contacted Chris Jack and said they thought FZV needed the referral. The Notre Dame Centre wouldn't put her on a waiting list until they knew she was being funded. I contacted Chris to ask if funding was agreed and he said he didn't know because it was a considerable amount of money. Chris made me feel guilty about how much therapy would cost for a child who was abused in their care.
203. We finally started therapy at the Notre Dame Centre in August 2020, when FZV was eight years old. We go once a week. Edinburgh Council are paying. The Centre are a third party charity and there is only so much funding for each child who attends. I'm worried that the funding will run out and FZV won't get what she needs. The Centre have to take their time with FZV. At the moment they are not talking about anything and it is just play. FZV sees a play therapist and I get support from someone who has trained as social worker. That's been great for both of us and should have come a lot earlier. However, the social worker who provides me with support believes I have secondary trauma and need a medical professional or counsellor to help. I have been waiting 24 months now on the NHS for this and still haven't had any input.

Other action taken

Records and Compensation

204. In August 2020 I went to see a solicitor and he is now acting on behalf of FZV. It's good that FZV can have her own solicitor who acts in her best interests. The solicitor can take an action against Edinburgh Council as the local authority responsible for FZV in foster care. The solicitor requested FZV's files from the council in September 2020 and is still chasing them up. The council keep coming up with excuses about the records being redacted. My suspicion is that the council are changing the records or adding to them.
205. I didn't know anything about the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA). The police didn't tell me about them. At the beginning of 2021 my mum mentioned them and I applied on FZV's behalf. The police confirmed the information about the crime to the CICA. They came back with an insulting offer based on scarring which FZV has below her [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. The CICA said there was no evidence in FZV's medical records of mental injury even though there is. They won't accept a report from the therapists at Notre Dame, only a psychiatric report. The application is at appeal now. FZV is still waiting for a referral to a psychiatrist and the CICA won't wait until the referral is made, before deciding the appeal.

Lessons to be Learned

206. I could write a thesis on what should change, especially where local authorities are concerned. However, it is a bigger picture change that needs to happen. It is society, culture and the law that needs to change.
207. Local authorities have lots of problems and are a complete mess but making management changes would not necessarily have that much of an impact on the risk children face, especially foster children. There has to be a change in the culture within local authorities and within Edinburgh Council Children and Families in particular.

There is no performance management or accountability and social workers are promoted on time in post rather than competence and ability. The culture of deferring all the time has to change. I didn't get the impression it was laziness on the part of social workers. I just got the impression they were overwhelmed and to deal with anything seriously would add to their workload.

208. My experiences with getting support for FZV are always negative. I have been trying to get extra support for FZV in school as she is struggling to learn and manage her emotions and I just get told no. It's always about fitting inside a box and unfortunately Scotland don't seem to have a box that says Traumatized Child in education. FZV has now been diagnosed with a learning disability but it is difficult to pick apart how much of that is genetic or in utero and how much cognitive function is impaired by her abuse. But again, trauma is not regarded as a disability or something in which to provide additional educational support in Scotland. There is little or no training and knowledge of it in education, in particular.
209. I have also been trying to get us more help from our the local authority but have been waiting over a year. This is for some self-directed support for FZV socially, for support in education and perhaps some respite for me such as help with transporting her to school as I have been unwell. But as usual I am met with unhelpful, angry, busy people who don't care and say everything comes down to budget and ticking a box. It makes me ashamed to be Scottish and to live in this country. It's surprising that there is a lack of resources for children like FZV. An example would be that we were referred to CAMHS in 2017 because of FZV sleep issues and we are still waiting to see a psychiatrist in 2021. A psychiatrist is the only person allowed to prescribe melatonin that may help her sleep.
210. It is a constant fight and battle to advocate for FZV and get her the help and support she needs. We still don't have it. I feel if this level of severe abuse has been confirmed by the police and social workers then FZV should have unfettered access to the support and things she needs in life to flourish. We shouldn't be re-traumatized by having to justify her need every time. We shouldn't have to keep bringing up FZV history of abuse at every contact we have with a statutory agency or a doctor or a

teacher. I am currently pursuing the possibility of a place for FZV at a specialist school or centre but I feel it will likely be fruitless and not paid for by any local authority. That will result in me having to school her at home, socially isolating both of us further.

211. More home visits to, and training for, foster carers is needed. During the co-ordination week, FZT said they hadn't had a home visit or an unannounced home visit for about 10 years. It was an off the cuff remark in response to me making small talk and asking how often social workers visited them. I found that striking and surprising. FZT said to me they hadn't done any training in ten years. That is unbelievable but not surprising. If there is mandatory training for foster carers, there is no consequence if they don't do it.
212. It was unusual for FZS to be the primary carer and do all the personal care. Someone should have picked up on that. FZS was doing things that were against the safeguarding policy and that should have been identified.
213. There is too much inequality between the child and the foster carers. I know there has to be because they are the child's carer but the set-up is such a vulnerable one. There is every opportunity for abuse and it seems that foster care is set up that way. Foster care is in people's homes where people have the authority and perhaps councils have difficulty imposing rules and polices in someone's home.
214. The local authority should have challenged FZT behaviour at the co-ordination meeting. FZT demands were never challenged and she called the shots with the council. It reflects foster carers having too much power. Foster carers can demand anything and local authorities are going to tip toe around them because they need them.
215. Foster carers are self-employed and there is not a contractual, employment relationship. Foster carers don't seem to be line managed or performance managed in any way. Maybe foster carers should be employed. There is an environment where foster carers can do what they want and behave as they want and get away with it.


216. There should be a review of the adoption process and how prospective adopters are treated. I feel a review would reveal a lot of gender, race and other discrimination and bullying of prospective adopters.
217. The first reaction is always to doubt the victims. Social workers are slow to react and believe victims. That has to change. In ^{FZV} case it was clear cut, she hadn't been in lots of foster homes or with her birth family. It was obvious what should have been done by the social workers and it wasn't.
218. The problems are systemic within the public sector. It is not just the way I was treated by the local authority but also my experience with the police, with CAMHS and now with education and ongoing support. There's an acceptance of low standards and lack of resources across the board. This is a national problem.
219. The big one for me is the archaic law of corroboration, meaning that rape or child abuse needs to be corroborated. It's a crime that can't be corroborated and so is almost the perfect crime. It's one of the reasons that we have problems with child sexual abuse in Scotland. Abusers know the crime needs corroboration. I think the law needs to change. Even if the law just changes for children under 7 years old, as they would not be able to fabricate such a story at that age. Or perhaps reliance could be placed on medical evidence from psychologists and psychiatrists who can say that a child has been abused from their behaviours and the child's medical examination as well as the likelihood of the accused person being the perpetrator. For example, ^{FZV} hadn't been in the company or care of any other male, other than ^{FZS}. Even if this only got cases to court stage in Scotland, this would be a huge improvement as many offenders chose to confess at this stage in other countries.

Other information

220. I hope there will be a review. I hope the Inquiry will look at people's stories in detail and see the patterns that arise, especially in dealing with agencies, and then look at how that can be tackled.

221. Care of children in Scotland whether in institutions, in foster care or by adoption, needs a complete overhaul. It needs scrapped and started again, not just bits fixed. I hope from the Inquiry, there will be evidence for that.

222. 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..........
The signature box contains the text "DocuSigned by:" at the top, "FZU" in the middle, and "83316284521D9AC..." at the bottom.

Dated..... 10 September 2021