

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

FJG

Support person present: No

1. My name is FJG. As a child I was known as FJG. My date of birth is 1961. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Background

2. I'm divorced and I have four children. I worked in the Hotel and then I went into the army for four and a half years. I married and then I left the army when my husband was posted to Germany. There wasn't a posting for me there which meant that I would have had to stay in the UK and I don't think that would have worked so I gave up my job and went to Germany with my husband.
3. We stayed in Germany for six years and then we came back to England before moving back to Scotland. We moved around a lot but it was alright. When we came back to the UK I started gardening and I have been doing that ever since. I started working with a woman who had her own company and when she gave it up I just carried it on.

Life before sharing home with foster children

4. Everyone called my dad FJI but his proper name was FJI and my mother is FJH. I have two brothers and a sister. FJK who we call FJK was born on 1962. who we call was born on 1963. My sister was born on 1971. There was a year between the first three and then ten years between and me.

5. We started off up North in a house outside Forres. My dad worked for the forestry. I'm not sure why but we moved from there to Fife. We were in Fife for quite a bit and then they sold the farm that my dad was working on which meant that my dad didn't have a job but he found a job in Duns. We moved there for a while and then he found a job in Fife so we moved back up.
6. That was when we moved to [REDACTED] which is close to Ceres in Fife. [REDACTED] was a working farm. Some of the outbuildings on the farm were used for cattle and storing hay. There was a two storey farmhouse which was quite big. The kitchen had been added onto the house and you went through there to the living room. From there you went into the hall and my mum and dad had a downstairs bedroom. The bathroom was also downstairs.
7. When you went upstairs there was a big bedroom on the left and that was where the boys slept. There was a small bedroom and then there was a big bedroom to the right and that was where the girls slept. The big bedrooms went from one end of the house to the other. The bedrooms could fit four beds in them and still have room. I had the small room in between the two big bedrooms. It had originally been the toilet and bathroom but that had been moved downstairs because the water pressure wasn't strong enough. There was a garden which my dad predominantly used to grow vegetables. There were fields all around us and loads of places to go.
8. Before the foster children came, life was happy enough, it was good. We didn't have far to go if we wanted something to do and we had friends down the road. The Villages, Woodside and New Gilston, weren't far away and you could walk to them. If you wanted something to do then you met your friends and did whatever. It was happy.
9. Before the foster children came, I can't remember where my sister [REDACTED] slept. She would only have been young when the foster children came so maybe she was with mum and dad. She wouldn't be in the big room on her own and I don't remember her being in with me. I know that I always had the little room and [REDACTED] FJK and [REDACTED] always had the other room.

Parents becoming a Foster Carer

10. I think my mum and dad had mentioned that there were children coming and they were coming from somewhere where there may have been some problems. I was under the impression that the children wouldn't be with us for long. It sounded like a temporary thing but I think that was a preconceived idea in my head because I thought that foster children stayed on a temporary basis until somewhere more permanent was found for them. I was thinking with a child's head and I don't remember asking questions. It just felt like it would have been a temporary thing.
11. I think I must have been thirteen or fourteen when they came to stay but that might be wrong. I know I was a teenager. I was alright with them coming, there was loads of room. I had a kind of childhood curiosity about it and I wondered what the children would be like.
12. I don't know why my mum and dad decided to become foster carers. They didn't discuss their reasons for fostering with me. My dad was an evacuee. He didn't know his mother until he was in his twenties. My mum just liked looking after people and she has always done that. My dad was bad for bringing home animals who had been injured and we would have to go and get the vet. Maybe they thought the kids needed help.
13. I don't remember my mum and dad doing any training and I have no idea if there was any training. I remember social workers coming to visit but that was more when the children were there. I don't remember them so much before the children came to visit. I don't remember seeing any written instructions.
14. In terms of support there were social workers but I only saw them around once a month, or possibly longer. My mum could have been phoning them, I have no idea. I don't know if my mum and dad had their own social worker. I think there was financial support but I have no idea how much.

Foster Care Arrangements

15. I don't know what the agreement was in terms of the length of foster placement that my mum and dad agreed to. They fostered the [REDACTED] family and they were the only children that they fostered.
16. We started with the two youngest ones, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I think [REDACTED] was maybe five and [REDACTED] was seven or eight. They were really quite young and closer to my sister's age than ours. It was quite novel. They came from Dundee and they had no idea about country life, they thought sheep were like dogs. It was a shame that they didn't know what we had grown up with but it was fun showing them different things that we had grown up with. There was no discussion about how to get the kids to understand what life was like on a farm. I don't remember any of that. They sort of just arrived and that was it.
17. I can't remember how long it was until the next two came. When ^{FCV}[REDACTED] came to [REDACTED] I would still have been about thirteen or fourteen and ^{FCV}[REDACTED] would have been about ten. I think [REDACTED] would have been about twelve but I might be totally wrong. I just remember the order of the children.
18. There was a little while between the first two arriving and then ^{FCV}[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] coming. It wasn't a short time, it wasn't weeks. From what I could gather ^{FCV}[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] had been in another foster placement in Newport. I remember being told that they were coming from there to join us. I must have been told that they were coming for me to have known that they were coming from Newport. I'm sure mum or dad would have said that the sisters were coming but I really don't remember, I'm just guessing.
19. I wasn't really bothered about them coming, there was loads of room. I don't think I had a sense of it being good or bad. That was what was happening and I didn't feel anything about it. I'm not sure what the reason was for ^{FCV}[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] coming. I think my mum would have thought it was wrong for a family to be split but I am assuming that. It may be the social workers asked my mum and dad to take them.

20. I went to work at the [REDACTED] Hotel when I was sixteen and sometimes I would stay there but then I would come back. I went into the army when I was seventeen and a half. I must have lived with the foster children for about three and a half years. They were all still living at [REDACTED] when I went to join the army. The children were at my wedding in 1980 when I was nineteen so that is two and a half years after I left. I can't remember how long after the wedding they actually left. I just remember getting a phone call from my mum saying that they had been taken away.
21. When I was in the army I went back to the house at least twice a year on average. It may have been more often. If I had a job in Edinburgh then I was allowed to come over to Fife.

Placement Preparation

22. I have no idea how much notice my were given that the children were coming. I knew the foster children were coming but there was no timeframe on it. We probably would have been told closer to the time when they were coming. It wasn't something that was important at my age. There were other things that were going on so I don't remember a date.
23. In terms of background we were given the general gist that their mum had run off with someone and that their dad had gone to jail for stealing but that was about it. I think it was my mum and dad who told me that. I don't know how they knew that because I never thought about it beyond what they told me.
24. There was nothing done to prepare me for the adjustment of having foster children in our home. We just mucked in together and that was it. I never had a problem with it and I never asked [REDACTED] FJK, [REDACTED] or my sister if they did. It was just four new people. I don't remember meeting them before they came. I don't remember the day [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] first arrived or the day [REDACTED] FCV and [REDACTED] first arrived. I think everyone settled in fine. We sort of got into a routine and it seemed fine.

Daily Routine and Sleeping Arrangements

25. There were two big bedrooms upstairs. The boys slept in the one on the left and there was another big bedroom to the right where the girls slept. I had the small room in between the two big bedrooms.
26. We all got up at a certain time and we had dinner at a certain time. The kids would be in the kitchen having dinner and dad and mum would be in the living room having theirs. There were chores to do like dishes. There were sticks and coal to bring in. I don't remember it being any different with the foster kids except there were more bodies.
27. The house was alright. We lived on a farm. Washing was a big chore for my mum. She eventually bought an industrial washing machine to deal with all of the clothes. Sometimes we would give my mum a hand to dust and Hoover, that sort of thing. It was just something that was expected. We all gave a hand in doing something. There wasn't a written rota but it would be your turn to do the dishes or your turn to get the sticks and coal in. It was done between ourselves. Mum and dad would ask whose turn it was to do the dishes and we would all pipe up to say whose turn it was.
28. I am aware that ^{FCV} [REDACTED] has said in her statement to the Inquiry that the foster kids were made to brush and sweep the stairs and do the dishes but that my siblings and I didn't do any chores. I would question if ^{FJK} [REDACTED] and I had already left home at this point because if we had gone then they would be doing all the chores. I don't remember sweeping the stairs during the week. That would be a weekend thing. When we were all there, we all had to come in, get changed and do chores.
29. ^{FCV} [REDACTED] also said that she used to have to cut sticks but we never used to cut the sticks because my dad had a chainsaw and he cut them. I don't remember ^{FCV} [REDACTED] cutting her finger with a saw but that could have happened after I left. The dishes were always done by two of us, one washing and one drying, and as far as I know the rest of the children carried that on after I left home.

30. If FJK [REDACTED] and I had left then the foster kids would have been doing the chores because they would be the oldest ones then. My sister, [REDACTED] would be the youngest one. When I was there it wasn't the case that only the foster children did the chores. I was still doing the chores. I don't know what happened after I left. I know FJK [REDACTED] left not long after I had gone and that left [REDACTED] and the foster children. If [REDACTED] FJK [REDACTED] and I had gone then then it would appear as though they were doing all of the chores but, when we were there, we were all doing the chores.
31. Mum usually gave us a shout in the morning and she would just say that it was time to get up. We would get up, get dressed and have breakfast. I might give her a hand to do breakfast. There wasn't that much for breakfast and then we walked down to the end of the road to catch the bus for school. If you missed that then that was it, you were stuck.
32. I think [REDACTED] wet the bed for a period of time but I don't remember any of the others doing that. I think her pyjamas and bed were changed. She was probably ticked off for it but I don't think there was anything other than that. I assume it was my mum who changed the bed but I really don't know. I think it would have been my mum who ticked her off. Dad wasn't there a lot because he worked a lot on the farm and, apart from winter time, he was out quite late. I think that's what would have happened but I wasn't aware of her being ticked off. I do remember she did wet the bed but I don't think it lasted for long. I don't think it was a constant thing.
33. I am aware that in her statement to the Inquiry FCV [REDACTED] recalls wetting the bed and being called names for it. I don't remember FCV [REDACTED] wetting the bed. I don't remember them being called names like "dirty" or "pee the bed". There might have been some teasing about it but I really don't remember that. [REDACTED] used to wet the bed for a period of time. I don't remember anyone teasing. FCV [REDACTED] says they were made to wash their own bedding but I don't see mum allowing them to use the washing machine so how are they going to wash their bedding? It was a big machine. Before that machine there was a twin tub in the bathroom that you had to fill with water and I don't see my mum letting them do that.

Mealtimes

34. I remember there being cornflakes, toast or sandwiches for breakfast. It wasn't a cooked breakfast, it was just something fast and then we would be out the door. In her statement to the Inquiry ^{FCV} [REDACTED] recalls having bread and butter for breakfast. There was also jam and cereal. ^{FCV} [REDACTED] says she used to hide it down the back of the settee but I don't remember that or food ever being found down the side of the settee. We had a dog, a little dachshund, so how come the dog didn't find it? The dog would have found it. It was a hungry little dog that would take the tattie peelings from the fire.
35. We had lunch at school and if we were hungry when we came back then we could have a jam sandwich. In the evening I remember having things like mince and tatties or fish fingers with beans. There always seemed to be lots of eggs and cabbage. The food seemed alright and if you were still hungry afterwards then it was back to the bread and jam. There was always loads of jam that my mum had made and bread wasn't expensive.
36. I am aware that ^{FCV} [REDACTED] has said in her statement to the Inquiry that she remembers getting tatties and fried egg or homemade soup for tea and she has said that my siblings and I got other things like sausage, bacon and chips. I don't remember that. The foster children didn't have different meals from the rest of the family. That wouldn't have worked because we didn't have enough money to be having different meals. Dad might have got something different but the rest of us normally all got the same food. When I was there, there were normally big pots of things. If you were doing great big pots of mince or stew or macaroni then why would you do two different things? There was always lot of vegetables, eggs and potatoes. There were puddings but ^{FCV} [REDACTED] doesn't mention puddings. There was ice cream and jelly. What ^{FCV} [REDACTED] is saying is not a full memory. There was other stuff. We were hungry but there was always bread and jam. There were jars and jars of jam.
37. If you didn't like what there was for dinner then I think it would be back to bread and jam. My mum knew what people liked. My sister, [REDACTED] didn't like carrots. The meal would be made with the carrots and then she would have to pick them out. I remember

one of the foster kids said that they didn't like custard but they had never tried it and when they did try it they loved it. Everyone ate the same at dinner time.

38. There weren't many biscuits. All the goodies were locked away in the pantry. Crisps, biscuits and sweeties were locked away. If you wanted some then you just had to ask but they were locked away so that they didn't all disappear on the first day. I thought there was enough food.
39. In her statement to the Inquiry **FCV** talks about goodies being locked away in a bedroom. I think that will be the chocolates that my mum was given for her birthday. They would be locked away. Alcohol was also locked away in that bedroom. **FCV** has said everyone in the **FJH/FJI** family had a key and could get things from the goodie cupboard but I never had a key.
40. **FCV** also said in her statement that the foster children never got treats or money. I was never given pocket money. We used to go and work on the berry fields and the tattie fields and some of that money would be ours. I think we had **FCV** and **FCV** out to the berry fields once but it didn't work because they kept eating the berries. They weren't used to that whereas we were brought up with that. I disagree with the suggestion that the foster kids didn't get treats but my siblings and I did. The rule of the house was that if one got something then the rest of us got something. I didn't see that. There wasn't a lot of treats anyway.
41. I don't remember eating in the living room so I think the children all ate in the kitchen. I don't know if it was a two sittings thing. I remember the little table and I remember them being round the table but I can't remember where we were. Unless they had theirs first and then us. The table sat four at most and then it would be a squeeze. We did stand around the table but I don't know where we were. I know we weren't in the living room. We couldn't all have got round the table because it was too small. The only thing I can think of is that maybe there were two sittings. I would have to ask my siblings but I know we weren't in the living room and I know that the foster children had their meal together.

42. The table was only big enough to have three round the table and there was a unit in the kitchen that had a table come down so there could have been one of them there. The foster children may have had their meal separate from us but that's only because there wasn't room in the living room for all of us but I don't remember having our meal in the living room. I think it could have been two sittings the little ones first and then us but I really can't remember.
43. I don't remember ^{FCV} asking to leave the table and someone saying "What the fuck are you asking to leave the table for?" I don't remember any of us having to ask to leave the table.
44. Predominantly mum made the evening meal but we would give her a hand if there were potatoes to be peeled. I remember giving me a hand and I remember and ^{FCV} having a go at the potatoes.
45. I know ^{FCV} also said in her statement to the Inquiry that they used to peel the tatties and put them on. She said that they used to have to make the food themselves and there was never enough. I remember peeling the tatties and putting them on. Whether that was part of our learning, I don't know. I really don't remember the girls putting the tatties on while I was there, I don't remember them peeling the tatties but she might be right, that might have happened after I left.

Washing and Bathing

46. There was one bathroom downstairs for everyone. I can't remember if there was a lock on the door. Normally the door was left open so if it was shut then someone was in there. Normally you would bang on the door and ask who was in there. You had privacy in the sense that the door was shut.
47. There was a shortage of hot water so when we were younger we used to have a bath together. I think ^{FCV} and had a bath together up until a certain age. I'm not sure when that would have changed but then it would have been that one gets out and the other gets in. We didn't have the hot water to have another bath running, we only

had one tank of hot water. We did the same so if I had a bath then FJK or [REDACTED] might go after me.

48. In her statement to the Inquiry FCV [REDACTED] says that people came in to use the toilet when she was in the bath but I don't remember that. There was only one toilet but if the door was shut then that meant that someone was in there and I know that I didn't go in if the door was shut. Whether the rest followed that, I really don't know.
49. I found FCV [REDACTED] saying that she didn't know what was happening when she started her period quite sad. I don't really know about that. I don't remember when she started her period, maybe I was gone. I really don't remember her starting her period. Throwing sanitary towels on the fire was the procedure but normally it was late at night and you would come and do that yourself.

Clothes and Shoes

50. I assumed mum was getting some sort of allowance to go and buy the clothes. I assume they also had clothes given to them from various relatives but I don't know. We all had clothes that were handed down from family or friends.
51. My mum had the job of washing and ironing clothes. We gave her a hand sometimes but predominantly she did it. I think we all helped at points. The industrial washing machine had an old fashioned ringer on it to squeeze water out. We all liked to see how much the ringer would take so we all had a go at it but mum would organise it. At a certain age we learned to iron our own clothes and that was down to you.

Leisure time

52. After dinner someone would wash and someone would dry the dishes, depending on whose turn it was. Then, if it was still light enough, we would be outside. If it was dark we would be inside, probably in the bedrooms.

53. The house was cold. If they put the fire on then the settee sat four feet away and as the fire got better we would have to push the settee back because we were cooking. I remember us all being on the settee. In her statement to the Inquiry FCV [REDACTED] recalls being sent to bed without tea but I don't know about that.
54. FCV [REDACTED] also says in her statement that they weren't allowed to watch TV much but they watched it just as much as the rest of us kids watched it. There was no rule that they couldn't watch it because they were foster kids. It was on up until a certain period because I think children's TV was on until a certain time and then it cut off. If it was time for bed then that was it. I remember FCV [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] both liked 'Neighbours' and they were allowed to watch that.
55. There was an old-fashioned side board with toys in the cupboards. There were always books lying about. There wasn't a bookcase as such but there were annuals and storybooks. I think they were normally in the bedroom. There was stuff to do. The foster children probably kept their things in their own rooms but I really don't remember where they kept things in their room. There was a radio there but I don't remember any of them listening to the radio. There was a record player and a tape deck.
56. In her statement to the Inquiry FCV [REDACTED] says that they were sent upstairs after tea. They weren't sent upstairs after tea. Tea was about 5:30 pm so by the time you had finished that it would be 5:45 pm or 6:00 pm. There were other things to do like go outside or watch telly. FCV [REDACTED] says that she was sent to bed at 6:30 pm or 7:00 pm and that they didn't have any time after tea but we did have time after tea. It wasn't a case of having your tea and then you were off to bed. We had tea then we would play outside for a bit and then bed time was 7:00 pm or 7:30 pm. I don't think it was any earlier than 7:00 pm and that would go in gradients depending on age. There were two bedtimes. My little sister, [REDACTED], FCV [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] would be sent off at say 7:00 pm and then [REDACTED] would be sent off with us. [REDACTED] would have gone later because she was older.
57. FCV [REDACTED] also says in her statement that, when they went to bed, they weren't allowed to talk to each other. I think they were allowed to talk to each other but there was an

awful lot of running around and there was no settling down. They weren't allowed to do that. I don't remember anyone stopping them from talking to each other. I suppose as long as it was kept relatively quiet that was ok. I think as soon as it became too noisy and no one was settling then someone would go up the stairs. I don't remember anyone saying there was a tape recorder in the room.

58. I used to go to a youth club in the village hall in New Gilston but that was about it. When I was younger, before the foster kids. I went to the brownies. I know the foster kids went to the brownies but I wasn't there then and that is what I have been told by my mum. At the time I was there they weren't at the brownies.
59. I don't remember if they had any personal possessions. I don't remember them coming with much. I think they were meant to get more from relatives in Dundee but I don't know if that happened. From what I could gather at the time more things were to come.
60. I couldn't tell you if the foster children were given pocket money. They might have been given treats. I wasn't given pocket money but we were given treats over and above the food in the locked pantry. If we went to the beach for example then you might get a kite or a ball to play with. I don't remember going to the beach with the foster kids.
61. At the weekends you weren't hassled to get up so everyone just got up when they were ready to get up. I think we used to get the breakfast ready at the same time though and then everyone went to do what they were going to do. If they were going to play outside or catch up with their homework or whatever. I don't remember anything else unless we went away in the bus up north. I don't remember anything besides that.
62. I can't remember if anyone had friends at the farmhouse. It might have been that friends came but I don't remember them staying over. I really don't remember.

Trips and holidays

63. My mum and dad bought a Fiat minibus and we must have gone places in that. We would have gone to see relatives up North. I don't remember a specific holiday out with our relatives. We would all be left with my great aunt in Aberdeenshire. I remember the four foster kids and myself being there for a week during the summer holidays. Sometimes FJK and [REDACTED] would be there, [REDACTED] was definitely there. We never went on holidays or trips without the foster children.

Schooling

64. We went to school on our own. I was at secondary school and the wee ones went to New Gilston Primary School. We caught a school minibus which would take us to New Gilston. If you were at the primary school then you got off there but if you were going to secondary school then you had to catch the big bus to take you to St Andrews.
65. I assume that mum and dad went to the school when [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] first appeared. I'm sure they would have gone with them on their first day and maybe the same with [REDACTED] and FCV [REDACTED]. It was a really small school with only 24 pupils so it was very friendly. It was a good school.
66. FJK [REDACTED] and I went to Madras Kilrymont in St Andrews. My sister went to Bell Baxter in Cupar. I can't remember if they went to Bell Baxter or Kilrymont. I must have been gone before any of them headed to secondary school because I don't know which secondary they went to.
67. We predominantly took to do with our own homework. If somebody got stuck on something then they might ask me or one of the others. There was no set time to do homework. Mum would ask if you had homework but there wasn't a designated time for it to be done or an area for it to be done in. You just did it yourself.

68. In her statement to the Inquiry [FCV] says that she was called an idiot and daft. I don't remember anyone telling [FCV] that she was an idiot or that she was daft. [FCV] wasn't daft.
69. I remember there had been a problem with [REDACTED] and I can't remember if that was when we first got him, but it was understandable. He had been in the little primary school and he had been going into lunch boxes and taking a bite out of everyone's lunch boxes. If he was hungry then you can see why but he never ate the whole lunch box or the whole sandwich. They brought someone in to talk to him about that. I was aware of that when I was living at home. Mum said this is what [REDACTED] had been doing because he was hungry but apart from that I don't remember being told to make sure he was fed. I think she said that in general rather than just to me.
70. I don't remember any of them having special educational needs. If there was going to be one then it would be [REDACTED]. She was just a little bit slower at picking stuff up but I don't remember. I don't know about what was done to settle them into school.
71. I'm not sure if they went to Church. We were Protestants and the [REDACTED] were Catholic. I'm sure mum had asked if there were any special things she had to do because they were of a different religion but I don't know if anything came of that. It didn't make any difference to us anyway. I went to Sunday school before the foster kids came. It was closer to where we lived then. Where we lived at [REDACTED] was quite far out from things so we didn't go to Church when we were there.
72. I don't remember the foster kids being taught any extra skills for later life. I think they were brought up the same way we were. We learnt as we became older and were more able to do things.

Healthcare

73. Normally mum would look after anyone who was unwell in the house and if they were off school then it would be mum who looked after them. If they hurt themselves falling over then whoever was there at the time would help them.

74. I remember the foster kids going to the doctor but I don't remember what they went for. They would have gone to the same doctor that I went to and they went to the mobile school dentist. I went to that dentist as well.

Birthdays and Christmas

75. Christmas would be the normal thing where you got up in the morning and there would be a pile of presents with your name on it. There was a pile for everyone. There wasn't much in the way of presents but it was alright. You probably had something to wear, an annual, some chocolate and some more clothes. There was always turkey and loads of vegetables. My grandparents from Edinburgh might come over, it varied.
76. On birthdays there would be cake and presents but I don't remember people coming or any of us going anywhere special. The foster children were given a card and presents for their birthday.
77. I am aware that in her statement to the Inquiry [FCV] has said that we didn't celebrate our birthdays or Christmas. That is rubbish. I remember the piles of presents in the living room with individual names on them. There weren't a lot of presents but it was celebrated. I remember decorations and going to get a tree. We celebrated birthdays, not on the scale that you do nowadays but we were always given something.

Discipline

78. If you did something that you shouldn't then you would be ticked off and sent upstairs. If you were being ticked off then you'd be asked why you had done it and then you'd be sent upstairs. Dad was normally in charge of any discipline. You would get a ticking off for not doing something that you said you were going to do, or you were told to do, or if you got into trouble for stealing, telling lies or fighting. I couldn't say how often you were ticked off because there was no timeframe, it was just when you did something wrong.

79. Fighting was normally between myself, FJK and [REDACTED]. The others were too small to be doing that with, they were quite a bit younger than I was. I didn't fight with my sister because she was too small as well. You might fight verbally but not physically. I would physically fight FJK and [REDACTED].
80. I do remember shouting at the foster kids. That would happen if they weren't moving fast enough or if they weren't listening to what I was trying to tell them. I remember FJK and [REDACTED] shouting at the foster children but I don't remember them actually fighting with the foster kids. They wouldn't have fought with the girls because they were girls and [REDACTED] was just too small, he was a lot younger than us. I don't remember them fighting, maybe play fighting.
81. There was a threat of physical punishment but I don't remember being spanked or whatever by my dad. The threat happened when he would take his belt off but we would all run up the stairs and he didn't come up after us. It was just this threat and we would all head up the stairs. I don't remember the foster kids being physically punished. I don't remember them being spanked or anything.
82. FCV [REDACTED] says in her statement to the Inquiry that, after getting lost coming home from brownies, my father battered her and she was slapped on the head but I can't see that happening. I don't remember being physically disciplined but there would be that threat. My dad had a big black belt that he would start to take off and we would just shoot off up the stairs and that would be the end of it. I don't remember anyone being battered. My mum certainly would not have raised her hands.
83. There was a bit of stealing going on but that was sorted. I would have been a teenager at the time. We found out it was [REDACTED] and FCV [REDACTED] and they were given a ticking off and I think that was about it.
84. Mum used to keep boxes of chocolates that she had been given above the wardrobe in her room. She doesn't really eat chocolates so they were always in the bedroom. Every so often she would bring out a box and we would all get some. The bedroom

itself was locked but not the cupboard. None of us were allowed in there. They stole chocolates, it was nothing big, and they weren't stealing money.

85. What they actually did was use a pair of my dad's wellies to make it look like someone had walked to the window. It had been snowing. They got in and got the stuff and then they came out. They didn't take much. I can't remember how they got caught but they made it look like a break in. It was quite clever. I wouldn't have thought to do that. They were townies and we were country people. They would have known about that sort of thing going on in Dundee whereas we were leaving the back door open and not being robbed.
86. As far as I can remember they just got ticked off. When you are caught and there is no way you can deny it then that is a lesson in itself. Maybe they lost some privileges or some treats or something, I don't know, certainly nothing major. It can't have been anything traumatic or I would have remembered.
87. We were all given a warning that the bedroom was locked for a reason but I don't remember the punishment. I don't remember ever having a key to that room. I couldn't even tell you the colour of the curtains or where the bed was in that room. My mum and dad would have been the ones holding the keys and no one else would have been given them unless they had asked but I really don't remember.

Relationship with foster children

88. I personally thought that my relationship with the foster children was alright. I really did. I didn't feel badly towards them. They were just [REDACTED] [REDACTED] FCV [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] I didn't feel anything really. I thought they were fine and we had some good times.
89. I remember one Easter holiday we had all been messing about in the fields and we all decided to lie down because the sun was nice and warm but it was cold so we went in and got blankets. We all fell asleep and ended up burnt from the neck up. I don't think FJK [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were there but the foster kids, my sister and I were there.

90. We played hide and seek and various games. I was in the brownies and I read a story about elves who got up and tidied in the night so I got the children up, my sister included and I think FJK and [REDACTED] were in on it too. My mum and dad were in bed and we got the hoover out and we were dusting. Dad went ballistic because we had woken everyone up.
91. I honestly thought it was great. We built a den. We showed them the back of the hills where there was a burrow of rabbits. [REDACTED] wanted one and there was no way that you were going to catch a rabbit but we all had a good laugh at [REDACTED] trying to catch one. Stupid things like that. It was alright.
92. When FJK and I left, I think the foster children's lives were better than ours had been. They went on holidays with mum and dad because they could with less of them. They did do activities. I think their experience was different from ours because there was less of them and you can do those things when there are less children.
93. I don't think their experience was any different from mine when I was living at home. I don't feel they were treated differently than I was. They might have been a bit softer with the foster kids than us. We all ate the same food, we all got our clothes from the same sort of place and we all had the same stuff to do. I don't think they were treated any differently to us.
94. It wasn't bad. Our family were a normal family. We had really good times and we had fallings out, sibling things. I don't remember it being bad. We were all hungry but there was always loads of bread.
95. We just got up to stuff. I remember all of us walking to the Fife Show. We were all traipsing along this B road for a couple of miles. I remember coming back and we all noticed a white van watching us. We were keeping an eye on it and then he came out and was crawling behind us. We ran all the way home and told dad. He got onto the coppers and they managed to get the guy in the white van. We did that sort of stuff and that was why I really found it dead hard when I heard about the allegations. I

thought I really can't believe this, this is weird. We did have good times. I just find it really sad because they were good.

96. The foster children had some problems but they were nice enough kids. I just felt really sad when I heard about the allegations. When I heard it from my mum it came as a mega shock because we used to do stupid things. I remember my dad once lying in the field showing the kids a trick that if you lie still in a field then all the cows would come round and he then shouted out so all the cows ran. We were all in stitches but he did tell us not to try that. We were up to all sorts and it just seemed strange for it to have gone from that to what happened. I really didn't see that they had any problems. I don't know what it was.

97. I thought the atmosphere in the house was fine but the atmosphere that comes through to me from ^{FCV} statement to the Inquiry is that it was hostile. It wasn't. My mother is not an affectionate type of person and never has been but she was there. She never hit anyone and that was one of her things. She just doesn't do it. It was always dad who handled discipline, even to send us to our bedrooms or talk to us. We would know that she wasn't happy with what we had done but it was dad who had to say to us what we had done wrong. She just didn't do it but she was there. If you asked her for something then she would swither, she's not decisive, but normally it would appear. I remember asking for a wildlife magazine. We didn't have money and as a child you don't appreciate how little money there is. The magazine did appear even though she hadn't said that I could or couldn't have it. Her usual term was "I suppose so" which was neither here nor there but not normally it would appear. ^{FCV} makes my mum out to be a dragon who was on her case to be doing chores and stuff but she wasn't like that. I don't see where ^{FCV} is coming from. I never saw my mum like that with the foster children and I didn't see her specifically pick on one. We were all treated the same. If one of us got something then we all got it, no matter how small. She was quite fair. My mum's not the easiest person to get on with. She is a typical Highlander. They have a certain way of being in that they don't talk about their emotions and they're not 'huggy' people but that was just the way she was.

98. My dad was good fun and he was fair. He didn't punish us for doing something stupid. He would explain what we had done and why it was stupid. He would say it was stupid and ask if we could see why it was stupid. He wasn't bad. He was good fun and we used to do stupid things. My dad smoked and we used to tease him about getting to the age he was at. We would say that we could beat him to the end of the road. He would give us a start but he would still beat us and we would all have a good laugh. I don't see him in the way that he is coming across in [FCV] statement to the Inquiry. I think he comes across really bad, just not what I can remember. He was the disciplinarian so out of the two of them you would be a bit more wary of him but he wasn't hard.
99. I got used to the foster children being there. It was just normal. That was who we had in the house and that was it. I don't know what my siblings' feelings were towards the foster children. It was my mum and dad's decision to take the foster children. We were nothing to do with the decision so we just go on with it. I don't remember it creating a problem as such. [FJK] and [redacted] used to take themselves off. [FJK] used to go to the village on his bike and do odd jobs for people up there. [redacted] was much the same. That was in their nature. We all had bikes before the foster children came. If you wanted to go somewhere you got on your bike and you cycled or you walked across the fields. I don't know how they felt about the foster children because I never asked them.
100. As a child I don't think I ever considered that if the foster children weren't there then I might have had more. [redacted] and [redacted] came so we got used to another two little children in the house and then the other two came. I don't think as a child I considered the economics of the whole thing or any kind of disruption, they just slotted into our routine. What we did, they did. I didn't see any difference except there were more people in the house.
101. The atmosphere was fine and I don't remember bad feelings. Maybe I am looking through rose tinted glasses. At times someone might have done something wrong and they were going to be ticked off for it so you might have that sort of bad feeling. I don't remember there being bad feelings between us.

102. I know, in her statement to the Inquiry, FCV [REDACTED] described her time in our house as the worst days of her life. She described receiving no affection and having no good memories. That is the bit that really upset me because I can remember some of the good times that we all had, going up north to see my great aunt and uncle on the small holding and some of the things that we got up to there. I can't understand where FCV [REDACTED] is coming from because there were good times. It was a cold house and there wasn't a lot of money but it never seemed to matter. I don't understand FCV [REDACTED] saying that it was them and us because as children it wasn't them and us, we were just kids all together in this big house. I didn't see it as them and us.

Contact with family

103. There was a period of time when the [REDACTED] parents were getting back together. The social work were giving them a furnished house and the foster children had been told they were going. Their mum and dad came out to the farm but it all fell through. I can't remember how old they were then. I was still at home at the time so anything up until I was seventeen. I remember meeting the mum and dad. I remember them being excited that they were going back and they were all over their mum and dad. I can't remember how they took it when it all went wrong.
104. We had already had them for a few years by then. I don't remember how long the dad's sentence was but he was back out. It wasn't as soon as we had the children that they got back together, it had been a wee while.
105. My mum used to take them to see their granny and I think it was an Auntie [REDACTED] I don't know how frequently that happened. I don't remember anyone else. I don't know about the mother and father other than the one visit that I remember. It could have happened when I was away but I don't think so.
106. I don't remember if they phoned their mum and dad, I don't think so but I don't remember. I'm eighty percent sure that they didn't. I don't know anything about letters from their family.

Siblings

107. In her statement to the Inquiry FCV [REDACTED] has said that we used to turn them against each other. I don't get that. I don't remember them arguing a lot, just the normal squabbles but not enough to split them apart. It was normal sibling stuff. I don't remember there being a conscious effort to split them up. There was the normal thing of one telling on another one but it was not that one of us would instigate trouble between them. I don't remember my mum and dad causing those sorts of problems either. Dad was hardly ever there and the only time that you would see him would be the winter time because that was the quietest time on the farm. During spring and summer he wouldn't be in until late and half the time we would all be in bed before he came home.

Visitors

108. I remember two social workers who came to visit. I don't remember how often they visited but I don't think they came that often. We seemed to deal with a lady social worker and then there was her boss and he would come out less frequently. They only said "hi" to me and asked how I was doing in passing but I don't remember them asking how things were going for me or asking how things in the house were. The foster children were usually taken away to be spoken to. The head guy had a Jag and he would take them away for a drive in the car. I can't remember what the lady did. I don't know what they spoke about, I just assumed it was to find out how they were doing. I didn't ask them when they came back. I never bothered.

Moving placement

109. I thought the foster children were fine and I was really quite shocked when I got a phone call from mum telling me what FCV [REDACTED] had said about dad. I couldn't understand where that was coming from or what was going on. I was away and married by that point so I was twenty or twenty-one. I was totally shocked and wondering what was going on. My mum was crying and she said they had taken the [REDACTED] away. I asked why and she said that FCV [REDACTED] had accused my dad of something, I don't know if it

was sexual or physical abuse. I was astonished and I couldn't take it in. That was how she told me. We had a quick chat about it and then off she went. I was in Germany at that time.

110. From what I gathered the head social worker had been there. [FCV] must have said something and that was it, they were away. At that time I didn't know where they had gone. It wasn't until the next time I phoned mum that she said they had gone to a home in Dundee. It was just so strange for this to happen. I thought they would be there until they got jobs or married. I didn't expect them just to be gone.
111. Mum used to go and visit them in the home with magazines and juice and then she would tell us about it. I remember her telling us about how [FCV] was doing. She told me that [FCV] wasn't doing so well. She said that at one point [FCV] was quite bad for glue sniffing. My mum mentioned abortions and she said that [FCV] wasn't doing well. She said [] was doing alright. I can't remember what she said about [] and []
112. I have no idea how long those visits lasted. I don't know how long mum kept that going. I don't know how long she did that for or why she stopped. I don't know where any of the four of them are now. I didn't have any contact with any of the foster children after they left.

Convictions

113. I don't have any criminal convictions.

Allegations of Abuse

Awareness of Abuse

114. I don't remember anything that could have been abuse in the house. There is nothing that I could think of that was not normal for us. I don't remember any of the foster kids being picked on for being different because they weren't different. They lived with us and did what we did.

115. I wasn't aware of any behaviour in the house that I considered to be abuse of children. The foster children weren't treated any differently to the way we were treated and I don't remember being abused.

Reporting of Abuse

116. I never reported anything that happened to the foster children in the house.

Allegations of Abuse for which there has been no Criminal Conviction

117. No one has ever complained about me in relation to the abuse of foster children.

Reporting to Police/Criminal Convictions

118. The allegation ^{FJV} made against my father, which led to her leaving the house, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] We thought that was it but a few years later it was ^{FJK}
and [REDACTED] They were charged and then they received a letter saying there would be no proceedings. The procurator fiscal had decided there was no case to answer. That was when the lawyers said that if they did it a third time then that would be harassment.

119. When there was a case against ^{FJK} and [REDACTED] I had come back to the UK. I'd had some of my children. They were at primary school so I would be in my early thirties and it would have been the nineties. From what I could gather there were allegations of physical abuse against ^{FJK} and [REDACTED] they were arrested and charged but then it went to the procurator fiscal and there was no case to answer.

120. The police asked me to give a statement about the second lot of allegations. They wanted to find out what the routine was and what we did. It was police in Fife that I spoke to. They came to the house. I think I only spoke to the police but I'm sure I did have to go to the procurator fiscal's office. I remember going there but I don't remember being interviewed there. I didn't go to court in relation to the second set of allegations.
121. The police were fine. I don't remember if they asked me anything in relation to abuse in the house. I remember them asking about the daily routine in the house. I don't remember them using the word abuse.

Specific Allegations Against you that have been made to the Inquiry

122. [FCV] was very charming and clever. She was fast to pick things up. She was also good fun. She was a child who needed a lot of attention though, even when just us children were playing games. She was quite competitive too. She wasn't a bad kid but she wasn't like the other three who seemed a lot easier. That is probably my adult head talking. I just remember that [FCV] as a child, was a little bit different from the other three. She wasn't as settled as the other three. I was quite shocked when she came out with the allegations because I hadn't realised that she was so unhappy. I have a photo of her at my wedding and when you see all of them together in the wedding photographs, they are fantastic. Surely if there was something wrong then it would appear and you would be able to see that something was not right.

A lot of the time we had the attitude that [FCV] was doing it again. That included her own siblings and that would be the conversation between all of us. She may just be one of those kids who needs lots of hugs and whatever. I remember one instance where the social worker came in and she was straight over onto the head social worker's knee. The rest of us were just standing watching and thinking that was what [FCV] does but it wasn't anything bad. We all knew that was what [FCV] did but we wouldn't have had a go at her. That was her and it was what she did. It was her type of personality.

123. As an adult I would say that the first foster home [FCV] was in was perfect for her. When you brought the four of them together plus us four, there wasn't enough room for that sort of attention. There were too many of us. I think [FCV] would have fared far better if it had just been her and her sister or even just her on a one-to-one basis. As an adult I think that [FCV] needed more hands on attention. Just a bit more than the others needed. My second son is a person like that, a very touchy person. The eldest isn't like that but the second needed to be hugged. My mum is not like that and wouldn't have done that.
124. [FCV] has given a statement to the Inquiry that includes the following allegation *"We weren't allowed to wear socks or pants in bed. We were freezing. [FJG] hit us with a slipper if we were caught with them on. She lifted our nightie up and struck us on the bum in front of [redacted] and [redacted]. She would be watching us if they were away out. She used to come upstairs and catch us."*
125. Why would I bother if they had knickers and socks on? It's not true. The house was cold and we were always just to put on more clothes. If they were cold then put the socks on, put jumpers on. It's not true. I don't know if they wore socks and pants in bed or not. There was no rule against that as far as I know. I don't think the passage of time has affected my recollection because why would it bother me if they had knickers or socks on? I've thought about that. I remember the girls had nighties on or pyjamas on but I didn't think about what they had on their feet. It didn't bother me if they had knickers on, that wasn't part of what I was about.
126. I have racked my brain as to why [FCV] is saying these things. I really don't understand. I don't know. The things about Christmases and birthdays are just rubbish. The things about going to bed at 6:30 pm, straight after dinner are wrong. I remember us being outside. Maybe not [FJK] and [redacted] because they would be off doing something else but the rest of us were there. She says something about there being no games and that is a lie. I remember playing draughts with them. There was monopoly and there was a multi-game with snakes and ladders and ludo. I really don't know why [FCV] is saying this because some of the stuff that she said is not true and really far out there not true. How can you say that you never had Christmas? I remember the

decorations, they were the tissue ones that you pulled out. I remember them hanging up on the ceiling. So why would you say that? We all made paperchains in the primary school and they would be brought home but there was loads of decorations. There was a box brought out and dad usually brought in the tree so why would you say there were no Christmases? I don't understand.

127. I noticed some other things in ^{FCV} statement to the Inquiry. She mentions cycling to Ceres and being taken back by the police. I remember that they had been caught stealing and that was why they were brought back by the police. She also talks about a time when she was told to put on her good clothes because she was being taken out but my mum told her to go upstairs and put her old clothes on. My dad had been planning on taking her back to Dundee. I don't remember why he was taking her back but I remember there was an atmosphere in the house before that.
128. I also noticed in ^{FCV} statement that she had been in temporary foster care in Newport before she came to us where they had had a room each, new dresses and were treated really well. I think that environment compared to ours would have been a shock and I wonder if that is why she said what she did.
129. The only thing I have to say is that I really can't understand where ^{FCV} is coming from. I feel sorry that she felt it was so bad because I honestly don't remember it being bad. I remember is being cold and there wasn't a lot but I really don't remember is being bad. I was really sad to hear that had passed away because I thought he was doing well. That was really quite sad.

Lessons to be Learned

130. I don't remember talking to the social workers about how we were all feeling. I remember the social workers appearing but I don't remember being asked any questions by them.

- 131. In the case of our family, I think we were fine with two foster children but bringing in four was far too much for our family. I think there should be less children anyway. I didn't think as a child that there were too many children but as an adult I don't think that you can give eight children enough attention. I have children of my own and every one of them is individual with their own needs. There's no way you can meet those needs if you have eight.

- 132. With the [REDACTED] being townies I think they should have been kept in that environment because that is what they already knew. Coming out to us must have been totally alien to them. We were out in the sticks and they came from a built up area. For a child that would be daunting. They would have been used to street lights but it was pitch black where we lived. It must have been hard for them to get used to. The quietness of the country must have been really quite scary. There were a lot of things that I don't think my mum and dad or the social workers considered. I think they should consider the environment that the children come from and not replicate it but keep them in surroundings that they are used to. I think what happened there was wrong.

- 133. I think those are the two things to consider. You need to consider where you put the child and you have to make sure they can get the attention that they need to bring them on.

Other information

- 134. 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..... FJG [REDACTED]

Dated..... 16 June 2022

