

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

FDV

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is FDV. My date of birth is 1972. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into foster care

2. Our family home was in Dunbar in at the back of Dundee. There were four children and my mum and dad. My mum and dad split up when we were young. was the eldest, he died in an accident in 2011, then there's who's now 49, me and who's 43. I call
3. I don't have a great recollection from being very young, I do know my mum and dad split up and my mum was an alcoholic. She kept getting drunk and the social work kept a close eye on her, with us. My mum also had a breakdown. We were all in and out of the social work place at Carolina House in Dundee and another couple of children's homes in and around Dundee. That was The Shelter in Dundee and a nuns place down in Roseangel also in Dundee. I was in The Shelter for about a year and Roseangel for about six months. That would have been from about the ages of five to eight. From what I can remember that care was all okay, but I could never settle.
4. I do remember all four of us were in care at Carolina House in Dundee and in the of 1980 we all went to stay with JBM/JBN. That was a trial for foster care with JBM/JBN and lasted for four weeks. The intention was that all

four of us would stay with them and all four of us did go. It was all okay with them at that time, it wasn't until after my older brother and sister were taken away that it got bad for me and [REDACTED]

5. The social work department were involved with all of that and there were meetings at Carden House in Aberdeen. The names of the social workers I remember are David Reid, who was the one who put us in care, and a Jim Dunsmuir. They basically left us to the dogs.

Foster home – [REDACTED] JBM/JBN [REDACTED], [REDACTED] Farm, [REDACTED]

General

6. On [REDACTED] 1981 all four of us officially went to stay with [REDACTED] JBM/JBN [REDACTED] as our foster parents. I have no specific memories of us arriving at the [REDACTED] JBM/JBN [REDACTED] but we called them [REDACTED] JBM [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] JBN [REDACTED]. I also know they had fostered a family called the [REDACTED] before we were there.
7. [REDACTED] JBM/JBN [REDACTED] had four kids, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was the oldest and was about eight years older than me, she was getting ready to go off to university when we went there. Next was [REDACTED] who was about seven years older than me, he was getting ready to leave school as well, he joined the RAF. [REDACTED] was three years older than me, then [REDACTED] who was two years older than me.
8. We stayed there for about two months before my older brother [REDACTED] was taken away. He went for a football trial with Dundee and just never came back. After about six months my sister [REDACTED] was also taken away, that was because she'd been caught stealing and [REDACTED] JBM [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] JBN [REDACTED] were rigid on stealing, so she had to leave.
9. I think [REDACTED] JBM [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] JBN [REDACTED] and their family had only been at that house about a year when we went there, that was [REDACTED] Farm, a big farmhouse [REDACTED] outside [REDACTED] in Aberdeenshire. It sat on its own in the middle of nowhere.

10. I remember JBM bred dogs and had big kennels at the farm. We worked and maintained them every single day. It was a horrible environment.

Routine

11. We were up early on schooldays, had breakfast then it was out to get the dogs fed and watered. We also had to tend to the poultry, then we went to school. We did that every day even if it was cold, dogs, poultry, then school.
12. When we got home from school we cleaned the dogs out and did any other jobs that were going, usually digging the garden. We went to bed about 8 p.m. or whenever Coronation Street finished.
13. This sounds mad but at weekends they would sometimes leave us in our beds until about two o'clock in the afternoon then change the clocks and say it was ten o'clock in the morning. My bedroom was above the kitchen and I could smell the cooked breakfast being made. So the JBM/JBN family would all be sitting eating this brunch but [REDACTED] and I, we didn't get that. We weren't allowed out our bedrooms at all. We would be called down, have a quick nibble of something and JBM would send us straight out to work. When they did that the days went really fast then we'd be called in for tea. So, they didn't have to give us a cooked breakfast and we were lying in our beds starving.
14. We just had to wash down for about a year and a half, we had no showers or baths other than on a Sunday. That was ten people, the four of us, JBM and JBN and their four kids. JBM eventually built a shower in the scullery but when you went in it you would get an electric shock. We would never get a shower anyway.
15. Initially when we first got there I shared a bedroom with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Then I went upstairs and shared a room with [REDACTED], and once he left the house I had that room to myself for years. I didn't have any possessions, I had a bed, a chest of drawers and a wardrobe. The thing is we didn't have many clothes.

16. I don't remember them ever buying us any new clothes. We only ever went out shopping for food, never for clothes. We just wore the same work clothes all the time. Money was never spent on us. Any money they got for the fostering went to JBM and his kids. His kids were treated the same as us for work and any money always went to him but the difference was that he loved and provided for them.

Food

17. We were fed, I'll not say we weren't but we were hungry what with all the work we were doing. I can remember being in my bed and being starving. We would have two bits of toast in the morning, then we were out working. We would get a sandwich at lunch and we'd have a tea, sometimes it was nice, sometimes it wasn't. JBN did most of the cooking. I do remember we were always hungry.

School

18. We went to ██████ Academy in ██████ It was a primary and a secondary school. I have little memory of school I just feel we were always working. I was in rags at school and I remember that wasn't nice. Everyone knew we were in foster care. We just wore the same clothes day after day. Me and ██████ were also in the remedial class at school because we were well behind.
19. One day, when I was in primary 5, my mum turned up at school with David Reid, our social worker. I remember we went to Mrs Andrews house in ██████ she was the remedial teacher. Me and ██████ were sent out the room and my mum, Davie Reid and the remedial teacher had words but I don't know what that was about.
20. We did wear the same clothes for days to school and we wouldn't be washed and we'd smell. I was too scared to say anything to any teachers at school and I wasn't very good at school anyway. I never really worked and I only got the one 'O' grade. I never really went to school to learn, it was more just to be with other kids.

21. In primary 5, 6 and 7, at [REDACTED] I remember the annual class photographs that got taken with all the class together. I will always remember that because me and [REDACTED] were taken into the assembly hall and we had our two photos taken separately then we were put back into class. I'm not in any classroom photos, I've seen my class photos and I'm not in any class photos from those years. I only have one photograph from my childhood, one from when I was at [REDACTED] Academy in [REDACTED] that's it.

Holidays

22. We never went on many trips, if we did go anywhere, it was only now and again and it would be one of the annual camps that I would go on with the cadets. I remember we once went to Scarborough, I think it was, and JBM [REDACTED] gave me £20 for two weeks. After a few days one of the cadet instructors came up and asked me where my money was and I showed him all I had. He just shook his head and walked away.

Birthdays and Christmas

23. We had three days off a year, Christmas Day, New Year's Day and your birthday. They were your only days off in the whole year. I'll tell you, all the rest of the time, we worked, we worked constantly.
24. [REDACTED] and I got presents at Christmas and on our birthdays but nothing compared to the JBM/JBN [REDACTED] own kids. They always got better. I remember at Christmas we would get presents and a selection box, then JBM [REDACTED] would gather them all up and put them in the front room and you weren't allowed near them. One year my mum told me she'd got me a present, I forget what it was, but [REDACTED] ended up getting it, not me.
25. I remember, when I was thirteen, I got a bike from the social work when I joined the cadets. JBM [REDACTED] then gave me a bit more freedom but I was embarrassed to go anywhere because I was always stinking and dirty. I got a radio cassette box when I

was fourteen and we had some books and toys but I never had a TV or a computer or nothing.

26. We didn't really have any time to ourselves and if we did I would just be kicking a ball about with myself, I was always playing on my own. I had nobody to muck about with. JBM own children kept their distance from me and We would just get put to our bedrooms.

Visits and inspections

27. JBM/JBN organised all visits and it was always through the social work department. There were no spur of the moment family visits allowed at all. All visits were dictated by JBN and JBM David Reid very rarely visited us, maybe once a year, and he never asked my opinion about anything. I don't think I saw him at all from 1986 through to 1988, when I joined the army and left foster care. There was no bond at all between David Reid, and me, whenever he was visiting you could tell he couldn't wait to get out of there.
28. My mum did try and do things to get us out but it was never any good. Her man, was bad and treated her bad. I once saw him hang her out the window of our house by her feet. That was when I was wee and was staying with her.
29. When I was at the foster home we only saw her now and again and it was never at the JBM/JBN farmhouse or at her house, there was a stop put on that. It was always at the social work place at Carolina House in Dundee. I only saw her about once every year to eighteen months, for a couple of hours. The last time I saw her I was in primary 7. That was in 1983.
30. My mum died in 1985 and I remember that our social worker, David Reid, picked my sister and me up from the JBM/JBN house, to take us to the funeral. His car broke down and we were two hours late and mum had already been buried and there was nobody there. He then took us back to his house in Dundee. I remember sitting with his daughter watching TV, and his wife must have twigged about me and and

she spoke to him. Next thing he took me and [REDACTED] to a female social workers house, for some reason, then he took us back to [REDACTED] JBM

31. When [REDACTED] turned seventeen he moved out the house. He married young and had a child young as well. [REDACTED]'s wife, [REDACTED], phoned Stonehaven social work department and complained about the way [REDACTED] JBM/JBN [REDACTED] were being with me and [REDACTED]. Stonehaven social work phoned [REDACTED] JBM and he told them it was a malicious phone call because it was his sons wife and he was trying to get away from her, to get a divorce. The social work just put it down to a malicious phone call.

Healthcare

32. We were seen now and again by a doctor, I think it was an annual check-up but I never remember seeing a dentist. We never got any sweeties so I wouldn't need to see a dentist. I once had a massive ringworm on my backside and I was treated for that and it went away. We always had cuts, bruises, stings and blisters from all the work we were doing on the farm. Things like that were always just left to heal.
33. I remember I used to feel sick when I was working, just because I didn't have enough to eat.

Work

34. All we did was work for [REDACTED] JBM on that farm, I felt like a slave, keeping his dog breeding business going. We fed and watered the dogs, cleaned them out and built runs for them as well. At one point he must have had about a hundred dogs. That's why he got [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] two more foster kids, and he got money for them and money for me and [REDACTED].
35. [REDACTED] and I fenced about three acres of [REDACTED] JBM land, caged his pheasants and peacocks, dug out his gardens, did tattie and daffy picking, everything. We were constantly working. Local farmers paid us to do that tattie and daffy picking, it was

about £25 a day we got for those jobs. JBM took all the money from us and we got nothing in return.

Relationship with foster parents

36. I never felt we were ever made welcome, JBM was always saying "if it wasn't for the money you wouldn't be here", he shoved that in our faces all the time. Even after my mum died JBM would say "your mum never loved you".
37. He even used to try and teach us, like sums on a chalk blackboard, in a room at the house. His wife and the kids would all go away for the day and me and [REDACTED] would have to sit with him for about three hours getting lessons. His family would come back and we'd be thrown out to do the dog kennels. I don't know why he did that, it's just the way he was.
38. When I was in primary 5 or 6 I was digging out the trenches with spades and wheel barrows one day and I saw my mum with her man at the time, [REDACTED]. I remember I ran to my mum but JBM came out and stopped me. He took them into the house and put them in the front room. They were in there for about five minutes before the whole JBM/JBN family came in and said there was work to do. My mum and [REDACTED] were ushered out the house and taken away in the JBM/JBN car. They never came back after that.
39. Me and [REDACTED] went to the JBM/JBN with £50 in our TSB bank accounts and I remember JBM once gave us two forks to go out and dig the garden. They were rotten forks and the shafts broke on both of them and he went off his rocker shouting at the two of us. Anyway he went to the bank and got two forms for [REDACTED] and I to sign then he took money out our accounts to cover the cost of the two broken forks.
40. Sometimes JBM and JBN were nice with you but we were constantly stinking and working. I would say that 99% of the time there wasn't any good times. We were never shown any care or affection at all by them.

Abuse in foster care -- JBM/JBN

41. If you didn't do what JBM asked you to, you would get battered, you'd be hit by him. He also wouldn't speak to you for about two months after he battered you, which was such an awkward position. Honestly, he just never spoke to you.
42. When it came to the foster children JBN took a back seat. She would shout at us but she didn't hit us, she would tell JBM and he would do the damage to me and . That could be a slap, a shake or a smacking on your backside.
43. and I had been with JBM and JBN for about a year when it got really bad. We were working in the garden one day, digging out a trench. JBM came storming out the house and hit with a stick on her backside and the back of her legs. He just lost it for no reason and threw me into the trench. I pee'd myself. Then he grabbed pulled her trousers down and skelped her across her bare arse with the stick.
44. It was constant after that, I remember once was peeling tatties in the kitchen and JBM went up and hit her "bam" on the top of the head, and said she was peeling them too thick. She could have stabbed herself in the eye due to the force of him hitting her.
45. The amount of work and I had to do was abuse in itself, JBM had us killing and skinning birds and animals, when we were only about eleven. I used an axe to kill them, it was hard to start with but you got used to it then it kind of came natural.
46. We both used to skin cows, sheep, calves and all the dead cattle from the fields. We would use a block and tackle to hoist them up then we would skin, gut and chop them up. Then we put them in the freezer for dog food or sometimes he fed it to us. did some of it and JBM's own children did it as well. It was horrible at first but you did get used to it.

47. Between the ages of 16 and 18, ██████ seemed to disappear from the JBM/JBN foster home. ██████ got ██████ a live-in job in a hotel near Inverness. ██████ since told me that she did that for four months then moved to Montrose and then to Bradford. It was in Bradford that he had a wee girl, ██████ and where she heard I'd been badly injured in a fall when I was in the army. That's why ██████ returned to the JBM/JBN farm and she was back there from about 1992.
48. In 1989, after I'd left to join the army, two further foster kids came to stay with the JBM/JBN That was ██████ and ██████ I was once told by ██████ that JBM JBM had broken his arm because ██████ had run away from the house for two days. Karen Bowie, his social worker, took ██████ right back to the foster parents and JBM set about him, breaking his arm.
49. JBM also assaulted ██████ once, when I was back at the foster home on sick leave from the army. ██████ had been on the bus back from ██████ School and he'd given a lassie a scare by pushing a lighter up against her or something. The girl told her dad and the dad come up to the house and spoke to JBM about it. ██████ was about ten years old. ██████ was in the house with his brother, ██████ me, ██████ her wee girl ██████ and another new foster kid, ██████ ██████ was special needs and went to the special school in Stonehaven.
50. So, JBM was outside talking to the dad of the girl and I remember he came back in and he just set about ██████ He was smashing and punching him and dragging him about on the ground in the living room. Then he sent ██████ up to his room. Then JBM went and got a walking stick from the porch and he went upstairs after ██████ I didn't see what happened up there but ██████ followed him up and she seen it. JBM started hitting him again in his room with the walking stick.
51. ██████ reported it to a teacher at ██████ Academy the following day and after school that day Karen Bowie, the social worker, another Polish social worker and two Aberdeen CID came to the house. We all got interviewed and JBM was charged with child abuse. That was in ██████ 1992 and that's when ██████ and I left that house for good.

Leaving foster care

52. When I turned sixteen I joined the army. JBM [REDACTED] dropped me at the bus station, gave me £20 and said good luck, that was it.
53. I was never informed that I wasn't under the care of the social work department. I had two sets of clothes and £20 in my pocket. I remember after my first eight weeks basic training I spent my first pay check, which was about £700, all on clothes, I had to.
54. See when it came to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] my brother and sister, they got given a flat and I think they got £4000 each to set themselves up. [REDACTED] and me we got nothing. Then when [REDACTED] came out of care her social worker was Karen Bowie, as David Reid had moved on. She was blind to what [REDACTED] needed. JBM [REDACTED] got his daughter [REDACTED] to get [REDACTED] her live-in job at the hotel in Inverness. [REDACTED] was ushered away from the social work by JBM [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] arrived at the farm about three months before [REDACTED] left, that was in 1989.

Reporting of abuse

55. I didn't say anything to anyone about anything, I was too scared to speak out and to tell anyone. On the few occasions when I saw my mum at Carolina House in Dundee I would mumble bits to her but I didn't feel I could say much more, I didn't want to upset her.
56. I eventually spoke of things to mum but I didn't feel safe telling the social work department. It was in 1992 when I spoke to the police about JBM [REDACTED] assaulting [REDACTED] and that was the first time I talked about everything in full.

Life after foster care

57. JBM [REDACTED] was the one who sort of encouraged me to join the army, he fought in the second world war and was in the Royals Scots. I was in the [REDACTED] for six years. I doubt I would have joined the army if circumstances had been different, it was really just to get away from my foster care.
58. I started in the army as a Junior Leader, that led on from being in the cadets, then I had one year of training. That took me away from the social work department and foster care, who had only ever let me down. I wanted nothing more to do with the social work department and the army let me get on with my life.
59. While I was in the army, in 1992, I had an accident abseiling, in Germany, when I fell off a rock face with my instructor. I broke my spine and smashed my heel, I was in hospital for about nine weeks. Then I got sick leave and I started that leave back with the JBM/JBN [REDACTED] at the foster home. It was during my first week of sick leave that the incident occurred where JBM [REDACTED] assaulted [REDACTED]
60. I went on to live in Montrose after I left the army, then I moved to London to see my brother [REDACTED] I never really knew or got to know [REDACTED] in fact I never really knew anyone, so I decided to pack my bags and go see him. I've never been close with my sister, [REDACTED] probably because of the way I was brought up. I didn't see her that much when I was in foster care, that'll be why. I get on okay with [REDACTED] but she has a drug problem and I don't see her that much either. [REDACTED] is actually coming forward to speak to the Inquiry.
61. I have a son, he's 23 this year, and we get on good, I see him now and again. When me and his mum split up he was younger. She went on to get married and I didn't want to interfere, so I just stayed away and let her get on with it. I still paid towards his support and have done all his life but I didn't have a lot to do with him then.

Impact

62. I'm very shy in relationships, I like to be on my own. I tend to just accept things and take it as it goes. [REDACTED] and I went our own ways after care and there was a period of about ten years when we didn't see each other.
63. Being in care didn't prepare me at all for anything and my education was poor. It wasn't until I got in contact with Future Pathways that I even knew what I was entitled to in benefits. I tend to not question and just accept things, that could be a bit of both the army and my foster care.
64. The army did sort me with my war pension but it was Future Pathways that recently helped me out with other benefits that I would never have known I was entitled to. As a result my pension has now increased and I have a mobility car.
65. I would never have known about seeing or needing any mental health counselling. I started with counselling last year, in 2017, and that was only after speaking with Michelle at Future Pathways. I was assessed by a clinical psychologist, Dr Ian Connor then I had sixteen weeks of sessions with their trauma counsellor Jackie Law. That's continuing at present.
66. When I was younger and in my late teens I was very angry about my time in care. In my twenties it wasn't something I thought of much but I have thought about it more as I've got older. Maybe for the last ten years, I've thought about it more and the Inquiry has had me thinking about it a lot more.
67. I feel loads better from the counselling though, Jackie Law has helped me and I do feel better. I don't think about it as much and it's not as severe as it used to be.
68. I drink every day from about four or five o'clock. I have about seven cans and it knocks me out. That gets me to sleep and it helps me forget things. I'm not on any medication from the doctor for anything like that.

Records

69. Future Pathways have also helped me in getting access to my social work records. I have copies of those records and I can make them available if the Inquiry needs them.

Final

Lesson to be learned

70. If you put children in foster care you've got to keep an eye on them. Especially if they're in rural places. The JBM/JBN just done what they wanted and nobody was there to say anything about that.
71. Put it this way, when I joined the army, having a shower every day was alien to me. The same with changing clothes every day, that was alien too, I had to get used to that.

Hopes for the Inquiry

72. I would like the Inquiry to make sure the things that happened to me and [REDACTED] don't happen ever again. The social work need to be dragged in and asked why they let it happen. Why did they keep putting foster children in care with JBM/JBN JBM/JBN when they knew they were unfit foster parents. Whoever's responsible needs to be asked why JBM was ever allowed to be a foster carer and left to look after children.
73. What's more sickening, as well, is when the JBM/JBN took [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] in, all the JBM/JBN children and their friends who visited the farm all kept their mouths shut. They were all educated and had jobs and they saw how [REDACTED] and

██████████ were being treated physically and they did nothing about that. It took me and ██████████ to physically do something about it.

74. ██████████ suffered at the hands of JBM ██████████ ██████████ is in prison now for killing someone when he was sixteen in 2000 and I condemn him for that but I know ██████████ and he isn't like that. ██████████'s psychological reports from the court case said he had flashbacks to JBM ██████████. He's been in prison for eighteen years, he hasn't had a very good life and he has no one out here to speak for him. I hope it can be arranged for someone to speak to ██████████ or for him to contact the Inquiry as, I think, the Inquiry should hear it from him.

Other information

75. I am aware of a social work enquiry from 1998 and a report that was produced by Donal Giltinan, a social worker, who has since retired, I'm not even sure if he's still alive. I think it came about as a result of my sister ██████████ pushing to have JBM ██████████ JBM ██████████ investigated. Donal Giltinan took evidence from me and ██████████ and we told him about the assault on ██████████ in 1992. There were still foster children staying at the farm, but JBM ██████████ had died by then. I know JBM ██████████ was born on ██████████ 1926 and died in 1996 or 1997.
76. That report condemned David Reid, the social work department, the school, lots of people and it was because of it that David Reid got disciplined. There's a paragraph in that report where the female that vetted JBM/JBN ██████████ for fostering, states that they weren't even fit for bringing up their own family let alone a foster family. If it was known they were inappropriate to be fostering why were they allowed to carry on with it.
77. I got a copy of that report and I gave it to a solicitor but he died and I've lost it now. I tried to get another copy in 2008 and Harriet Dempster, the director of the social work for Highland Council, who organised the whole enquiry, has been trying to get me a copy. I'm still trying to obtain a copy of that Donal Giltinan report but I can't seem to get anywhere, it seems to be outstanding. It apparently included details on

what help was required for me and [REDACTED] and there were recommendations included in that report. I believe David Reid the social worker was disciplined in connection with his report, so it may be that it will be on his own personnel file within the social services.

- 78. A couple of weeks ago, purely out of curiosity, I drove up there to the farm and it's now all totally changed. There's been new parts built and all the dog kennels, gardens and bird cages have all been ripped down. I think it's owned by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] or his family, that's who owned it back when the JBM/JBN rented it when [REDACTED] and I were there.
- 79. When I first came to speak to the Inquiry I was all psyched up and I had a panic attack as I was so stressed. Coming to give my statement got me quite stressed. I now feel totally relieved and see it as having been worthwhile.
- 80. I've since spoken to my sister [REDACTED] and told her not to get stressed out and I recommended that she get in touch as well. She has the number and I'm sure she will make contact.
- 81. 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.. [REDACTED] FDV

Dated.. 16.3.2018