

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

FDN
[REDACTED]

Support person present: No.

1. My name is FDN [REDACTED]. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1967. My contact details are known to the Inquiry. My birth surname was FDN [REDACTED]. This is the name I was known as all the time I was in care. When I left care at sixteen and went to live with my mum, my brothers were also living there and they were using her maiden name of [REDACTED] so I used this too. I only used FDN [REDACTED] for a couple of years until I got married and ever since have used the surname FDN [REDACTED].

Life before going into care

2. My mum was [REDACTED] and my dad was [REDACTED]. They have both passed away. I am one of five children. [REDACTED] was the eldest sister and she is seven years older than me. [REDACTED] is five years older than me. [REDACTED] was three years older than me. He died around 2009. [REDACTED] was two years younger than me. Both my brothers used the surname [REDACTED] when they were in care, and used [REDACTED] when they moved back home with our mum.
3. I don't remember anything about living at home before I went into care. I don't remember anything about my mum and dad. According to my mother, she has told me that she just wasn't fit enough to look after us all so that is why we went into care. I believe personally that she just couldn't cope with us all. I have no idea if there was any formal or court process to take us into care.

4. The only vague recollection I have before I went into foster care is of being in a children's home. I don't really remember anything about it, I just remember being in there. I know it was Kirknowe Children's Home in Cambusnethan. It was just along from the primary school that I went to. I also vaguely remember being with different foster parents when I would have been about four years old. They were the [REDACTED] and they stayed at [REDACTED] Newmains. I don't remember any experiences in there that I can tell the Inquiry. The foster father died and I was moved again. I may have gone back to the children's home in Cambusnethan, but I am not sure. I may have gone straight to the [REDACTED] FLS/FLT

Life in foster care with the [REDACTED] FLS/FLT

5. Initially when I went to the [REDACTED] FLS/FLT they lived at [REDACTED] in Wishaw. I would have been four or five. Eventually, when I was about eleven or twelve, they moved to a bigger house at [REDACTED], Wishaw. The house number was either [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] but I think it was [REDACTED]. The foster mother was [REDACTED] FLS and she was known as [REDACTED] FLS. The foster father was [REDACTED] FLT and he got called [REDACTED] FLT.
6. The house at [REDACTED] was a three bedroom end terraced house. All the bedrooms were upstairs. [REDACTED] FLS mother also lived in the house and had her own room. Not long after I moved there she died. There was another boy who had been fostered. He was disabled and his name was [REDACTED]. He had his own room. I shared a room with my two sisters [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and two other girls [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] FLS and [REDACTED] FLT slept in the living-room on a sofa bed. I remember that often we changed about rooms and I sometimes just shared with my sisters.
7. The house we moved to at [REDACTED] was a bigger house. Before we moved there my sisters [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] had left. This house had four bedrooms. [REDACTED] FLS and [REDACTED] FLT had their own room. [REDACTED] still had his own room. I had my own room. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] shared a room.

8. Both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] ended up using the surname [REDACTED] because they were adopted. They were both a couple of years older than me and had both lived with the [REDACTED] from being babies. [REDACTED] was always called [REDACTED]. I know that [REDACTED] surname was initially [REDACTED] until she was adopted. She then used [REDACTED]
9. I never knew what to call the [REDACTED]. I couldn't call them by their first names because that was disrespectful. One time I called [REDACTED] "Mum". [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] went nuts at me. They told me that [REDACTED] wasn't my mum. If I wanted to speak to [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] I had to try and attract their attention some other way before I spoke.

Routine at foster care with the [REDACTED]

First Day

10. I can't remember who took me to the [REDACTED] house. I just remember arriving there in a car. It wasn't the [REDACTED] who took us and I presume it was a social worker. I seem to think my sisters [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] arrived around the same time as me. I don't actually remember going into the house and being introduced to the [REDACTED] or anything else about my first day.

Mornings and bedtime

11. We would just really get ourselves up in the morning. I can't remember if someone woke us up. We would go down and have our breakfast and get ready and go to school.

Food

12. I am not sure who made our breakfast in the morning or if we got it ourselves. When I was at primary school I used to come home at lunchtime. At high school I got free school dinners so I got lunch vouchers. For dinner I think me and my sisters did more of the cooking than [REDACTED] did. [REDACTED] didn't do much cooking. I remember once

she asked me to cook mince. I was still at primary school and I didn't have a clue what to do. I tried but I didn't know about having to brown the mince. I did it wrong so FLS beat me up for that.

13. We all usually ate at the same time. In [REDACTED] there was a dining table with benches and we sat at that most of the time. We didn't have a table at [REDACTED] so I often had a plate on my lap in the living-room. The cupboards were always well stocked with food.

Washing and bathing

14. I am not sure if there was a set routine for washing and bathing. I do remember when I was quite young that Sunday evening was bath night. I often shared a bath with two of my sisters. Sometimes it might have been with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. As I got older I just washed when I wanted. I was never encouraged to wash. I was just left to look after myself.

Clothing

15. I usually wore the same clothes all week to school. I would wear the same clothes at the weekend when I was out playing. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] always got the best, new clothes. I occasionally would get their hand-me-downs. I was regularly sent to school with holes in the soles of my shoes. I had to cut cardboard out and put it in my shoes. FLS would go to charity shops and get bags of clothes and that's how I got my new clothes. FLS never took me out to buy me new clothes. I remember the social worker coming and taking me to the shops to buy me clothes sometimes. Usually that was for school clothes.

Schooling

16. I went to Cambusnethan Primary School then to Wishaw High School. I just walked to school. I wasn't treated any differently by the other children or the teachers at either because of the fact I lived with foster carers. I got vouchers for a free school

lunch but lots of children got them so I didn't feel any different. I did sometimes get bullied by other children at school. There was a list of reasons why. I was fostered, I was small, covered in freckles and wore glasses. I had a handicapped brother, and had a black sister. That was [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] the other foster children who they were talking about, [REDACTED] was disabled and [REDACTED] was black.

17. The [REDACTED] didn't go to any of my parent's nights, and they never helped me with any of my homework. On saying that I suppose they did try to encourage me to do well at school.

Chores

18. The house was always clean and tidy. It was spotless. It was almost immaculate but that was because we were made to keep it that way. Me and my sisters did everything in that house. [REDACTED] did practically nothing. Through the week we did all the normal housework, like the cleaning, dusting, hoovering and emptying the bins. On a Sunday we did absolutely everything in the house. We gutted the house. We didn't have a choice. We had to do it. [REDACTED] might help doing some of it. If she was working that day and it wasn't done by the time she got home, we would get punished.

Pocket money

19. I used to get thirty pence a week pocket money. [REDACTED] would leave it lying on the TV or on the window ledge and wouldn't tell me it was there because she knew I wouldn't go and take it. I didn't get any other pocket money until my sisters [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] left. [REDACTED] used to have greyhound dogs. Every morning and every evening they would walk the dogs. When my sisters left I started doing it. [REDACTED] would give me a couple of pounds pocket money for doing that.

Leisure time

20. At home I would spend most of my time in my room. I would either listen to music or read books. I was a member of Wishaw library so I used to get books out of there. I would go to the library on my own then spend a lot of time in my room reading. I was a bit of a loner. There was a television in the living-room which we got to watch when we wanted. There were games to play in the house if we wanted. We were allowed out to play in the evenings and at the weekends if we wanted. That was if I wasn't grounded, because that often happened.
21. At weekends, when I was younger, I would spend a lot of my time playing outside in the cul-de-sac on my bike. There were quite a lot of other children there so we would play at skipping, hide and seek, things like that. I think most of the time when I was younger we would get shouted into the house when it was time to go in. When I got older I was allowed to stay out, more or less, as late as I wanted.

Trips and excursions

22. Every year we would all go in the car to Nairn for a holiday. Six of us would be squashed into the back of the car. We stayed in a caravan for two weeks. We went every year, apart possibly for the last two years that I was there. I don't think we went anywhere in those last two years. Once, when we were there, I remember going to sheep-dog trials and to save paying for me I was squashed down behind the seats covered in coats. If we went any trips **FLT** would always be with us because he drove the car. **FLS** didn't drive.
23. Because **FLS** worked in the cinema, if there was a film we wanted to see, she would sometimes get us in for nothing. She would take us with her at the start of her shift. Other times, when we were older we were allowed to go swimming to the baths with some of our friends.

Clubs and organisations

24. When I was with the [FLS/FLT] I joined the girl's brigade. I was still at primary school and I was only there for a couple of years.

Healthcare

25. I was registered with a doctor and if I needed to go the [FLS/FLT] would take me. I remember going to the dentist when I was at high school, but I don't remember much about going before that.

Visits / inspections

26. Apart from when the social worker used to take me out for clothes I never got any visits from anyone. No-one ever came and sat down with me and asked me how things were, or if there were any issues. I am not aware of anyone else official coming in to inspect or check up on the foster carers. I vaguely remember someone, probably a social worker, coming and taking me once to visit my mother. I don't really remember anything about that visit.
27. Once, when I was ten or eleven my mum turned up at primary school to see me. I was told by another girl that my mum was at the school gates. I went down and she spoke to me. She had to tell me who she was. She gave me a watch. The [FLS/FLT] wouldn't let me wear it because my mum gave it to me.

Relationship with sisters and other foster children

28. I got on well with my sisters when we were with the [FLS/FLT] I had a strange relationship with [] and [] They were treated much better by [FLS] and [FLT] They made me feel inferior to them and not part of the family. They did the same to my sisters and made them feel the same way. [FLS] and [FLT] made us feel inferior too and we knew that we weren't part of their family.

Family contact

29. I didn't know anything about my brothers. The first time I ever met them was when I left care and went back to live with my mum. They were living with her. I knew I had two brothers and I was told that they had been with the [FLS/FLT] for a brief time. I don't remember them being there. The [FLS/FLT] told me that my brothers were so out of control they couldn't keep them.

Birthdays/Christmas

30. Christmases were generally good and we got loads of presents. That was the only time that I actually got new clothes. We would always ask for things for Christmas and generally they would try and get us what we asked for. Often though it wouldn't quite be what we were looking for or was a different version. Once I asked for a blue Parka jacket and boots. [FLS] refused to get me the boots but she did get me a Parka jacket, but it was green.
31. Birthdays were okay. I remember for my thirteenth birthday I got a wee panda radio. I honestly can't remember if they ever gave me birthday cards. I never got a birthday cake. They probably wished me happy birthday but I just can't remember. I don't think there was ever any big birthday celebration. My sister has since told me that she sent me a birthday card with money. The [FLS/FLT] ripped the card up and sent it back to her.

Discipline / Punishment

32. There were no written rules about discipline and no one ever explained to me what conduct was expected. I mostly got grounded and not allowed to go out if I was being punished. One time I was told to clean their fabric suite. I was in a rush to get out so I didn't do it properly. Because of that I was grounded. Sometimes when I was grounded I would sneak out and I would get grounded even longer. I have been grounded for months before and that included at weekends.

Abuse in foster care with the [FLS/FLT]

33. I just remember being scared all the time when I was living with the [FLS/FLT]. I can't say that I ever had any kind of relationship with them. I think we were just there to be their skivvies and they just wanted the money for fostering us. I wasn't even aware that they would have been getting money until I made enquiries some years later about fostering children myself and I found out that it was paid.
34. I was never shown any affection when I was living with the [FLS/FLT]. They never helped me if I had any issues or problems. I could never go to them if ever I had a problem. I could never even ask them for money for anything. I sometimes stole money, if I needed it, from [FLT]'s overalls if he left them hanging up. He sometimes had wads of notes in his overall pockets.
35. [FLT] was a long distance lorry driver and [FLS] worked in the cinema so quite often we were left to fend for ourselves. There was no-one there to look after us. [FLS] and [FLT] would often berate me. They would say things like "It is no wonder that your mum didn't want you" and "No wonder she gave you away"
36. [] and [] were treated much differently from me and my sisters. They could do no wrong in the eyes of the [FLS/FLT]. They got new clothes and were given money. [] and [] would deliberately do things knowing that we would get the blame for it. One time me and [] were out shoplifting and we got caught. When we got home I got battered for it but nothing happened to []
37. One time, when I was still at primary school, I was ironing curtains and I pushed the iron the wrong way and it turned over and burnt my arm. I started screaming because it was sore. [FLS] leathered me for that. She slapped me across the face because I was crying.
38. Another time I jammed my finger in a door frame. I tried hard not to cry. [FLS] came over and pretended to be sympathetic saying "Oh did you hurt yourself, let me see". I

started to cry so she slapped me across the face and said something like "There that's something to cry about ya bastard"

39. One night I snuck out the house to go to a disco. Because I spent most of my time in my bedroom FLS wouldn't have noticed me being away. or must have told her. She was waiting for me when I got home and asked where I had been. I told her because I knew that she knew. She gave me a bad beating that night. She hit me first with her hands and when I cowered over she started kicking me to the legs. She then picked up a big thick, heavy glass ashtray. She started trying to hit my head with it but I had my hands up and it was hitting the backs of my hands. My hands were all badly bruised after it.
40. I remember FLS sent me to the shops to get a big mixture of sweets for everyone. On the way back from the shops I was eating some of the sweets and she caught me. She slapped me across the head when we were in the street and took the sweets from me. She told me to go home and tell everyone else that they weren't getting sweets because of what I had done. None of them hit me but they gave me quite a hard time.
41. I often got grounded if I was out too long when I was out walking the greyhounds. I would also get grounded if I wasn't out long enough with them. I would get slapped as well. FLS would hit me all the time. She would hit me for anything. If I hadn't washed the dishes properly I would get hit. It felt like I was walking on eggshells all the time. I had to be so careful. Sometimes I would get hit and I didn't even know what I had done, if in fact I had done anything.
42. There was one time the carrying handle on one of the mattresses on the bunk beds got damaged. FLT had us all lined up from the tallest person to the shortest. He started at the tall end and asked everyone individually if they had damaged the handle. Everyone before me said it hadn't been them. It came to me. FLT asked me and I denied it because I didn't do it. He slapped me across the face then asked me again. I again denied it. He hit me again. I realised he was going to keep hitting me if I denied it so the third time he asked I just admitted it. I then got battered. He kicked

and punched me to my stomach and body. He used to wear steel toe-capped boots and sometimes I think it just pure luck that I wasn't killed.

43. We got the job of cutting [FLT]'s hair and this included cutting the hair in his ears. I tried to be careful not to nick his ear with the scissors. A couple of times I caught his ear and cut him. He slapped me for doing that.
44. There was a boy who stayed across the road and he was one of my friends. He had a music album that I was keen to listen to. I went to his house and I was in his bedroom listening to it. I would have been twelve. [FLT] came to the door and grabbed me by the hair and pulled me by the hair back over to our house. He then kicked me up the stairs into the house.
45. One time I was grounded when my friend came to the house. She asked me if I wanted to walk up to the shops with her. Even though I was grounded I decided just to go with her. We went up and she met her boyfriend. She was standing speaking to him and I was standing close to them. [FLS] came round the corner and saw me. She started hitting me with her umbrella to the head and shoulders. She then grabbed me by the hair and dragged me all the way back to the house. This was all in front of my friends. This was all because I was talking to a boy. I wasn't allowed to speak to boys. Both [FLS] and [FLT] told me this. If ever they saw me speaking to a boy they would tell me I was man daft just like my mother, and that I was a wee cow. They called me lots of things.
46. [] got hit a lot by [FLS]. She got hit more often than []. I remember it was just before [] left that we knew something was going on but didn't really know what it was. We were all sent upstairs leaving [], [FLS] and [FLT] downstairs. We were trying to hear what was going on. I heard my sister screaming and I didn't see it but I knew she was being hit. [] told me later that she was pregnant and [FLS] and [FLT] knew this. [] told me that one of them had kicked her in the stomach. [] was eighteen when she left the [FLS/FLT]. She has since told me that the same thing happened to her. I think it was because the [FLS/FLT] didn't want them to leave.

47. [FLT] used to have greyhounds and obviously sometimes the dogs got injured. Rather than spend the money to take them to the vet's he would take the dogs round the back of the shed at the end of the garden. He would get me to hold the dog's leash and he would hit the dog over the head with a spade and kill it. He made me do this three times.
48. I was really unhappy when I was living at the foster home. I was miserable and just wanted out of there. I tried to commit suicide three times when I was living there. I was still at primary school the first two times. The first two times [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The first time I was only eight years old and I think all that happened was that I must have fallen asleep. After the second time [REDACTED] spoke to me the next day and asked me what had been wrong with me the day before. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The third time was when I was at high school. I would have been about thirteen. I am not sure why I did it this time. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
49. I was never injured when I was at the [FLS/FLT] to the extent that I needed any medical treatment. I was regularly bruised but I became an expert at hiding them from everyone at school because I didn't want anyone to know. I was frightened because I knew that if I told anyone it would just make things worse.
50. When we moved to [REDACTED] my sisters had left so this made it worse for me. It meant that I was the brunt of all the attention from [FLS] and [FLT] I can honestly say that I can't think of any happy memories from my time in foster care with the [FLS/FLT]. I am not saying that there weren't any, I just can't remember any good times. [FLS] called me names all the time. She told me I was no use and that I was an ugly wee bastard. She just hated me. [FLT] was sometimes okay with me and would take me out to watch the greyhound racing.

Leaving foster care

51. The FLS/FLT never really taught me any life skills to prepare me for leaving and for my life after care. They obviously didn't actually want me to leave. I knew that I wanted to leave as soon as I turned sixteen. I was desperate to leave. The social work must have told my carers right from the start that my birthday was the [REDACTED] and it was only when I went to my mum's that she told me birthdate was actually the [REDACTED]
52. When I turned sixteen in [REDACTED] 1983 I contacted my sister. I told her that I wanted to leave the foster home. She came to meet me at school the next day. I was hoping to go and live with her but she was married with her own children. She took me to my mother's house in Wishaw because she had a relationship with her by then.
53. When I got to my mother's she straight away phoned the social work. It was either George Meikle or Ron Hutchison from the social work department who came and took me back to the FLS/FLT to tell them that I was leaving and to collect my belongings. The FLS/FLT were very hostile to me and the social worker. They refused to give me any of my belongings from the house. They wouldn't even let me pick up my school books. I had to go back to my mums just wearing my school uniform.

Life after being in care

54. When my sister took me to my mum's, that was the first time I had seen my mum since she came to the primary school gates and gave me the watch. In any other circumstances I would have been terrified at the thought of going to see her after what had gone before. I was just so desperate to get away from the FLS/FLT that I didn't care. Everything with my mum was fine that day. Her house was a mess and was dirty so I spent the first day cleaning it.
55. A woman later came when I was at my mum's and took me to the shops. She bought me clothes because I couldn't get any of my clothes from the FLS/FLT I think this

was arranged by my social worker whose name was Ron Hutchison. He worked from the Wishaw office. He visited me a couple of times after that just to see how I was doing and that I was settling in okay. I think that was all I saw of the social work and my contact with them just petered out.

56. I stayed with my mum for about a year. I left my mum's in [REDACTED] 1984, about a week after my daughter [REDACTED] was born. She is now 33. I now have two daughters. My other daughter [REDACTED] is 3 years younger than [REDACTED]
57. When I left my mum's I moved in with my sister. I stayed there for about ten months until my sister asked me to leave. I then went into homeless accommodation until I got a house in Wishaw in the summer of 1985. I stayed there for around two years. In that time I met my future husband and we married in 1987. We moved to Blackpool to live. By the end of 1987 and I was pregnant with my second daughter. I came back to Wishaw because our marriage was breaking down. I was leaving my husband because he was an abusive drunk but he followed me back up. We were homeless again with two children. We got another house in Wishaw. Two or three years later my husband and I finally split up. I threw him out because I got fed up of my children seeing me getting regular beatings from him. Ever since then it's just been me and my girls. In 2000 I got another house which had a back and front door which I subsequently bought in 2007. My husband and I got divorced over twenty years ago.
58. I was in contact with my mum but we lost touch about twenty years ago. She died two years ago. I went to visit my dad two or three times but it was like visiting a stranger so I stopped going to see him.

Reporting of abuse at the [REDACTED] FLS/FLT

59. There is no-one I could have told about the abuse I was suffering at the [REDACTED] FLS/FLT. There were no social workers coming to the house for me to tell. There was no-one

at school that I could confide in and tell. Even if there was somebody that I could have told then, I was too frightened to say anything.

60. I took an overdose three times when I was at the [FLS/FLT]. I was only eight the first time. [FLS] and [FLT] didn't know anything about it or if they did they didn't do anything about it. I don't think anyone else would have known that I had taken an overdose.
61. My sister [REDACTED] ran away twice and the police brought her back. [REDACTED] told me later, when we were still at the foster home, that she had told the police and the social work department about the abuse that was going on. Nothing ever happened as a result of her telling them.
62. My other sister [REDACTED] told me that when she left the foster home she told the social workers that I was in the foster home and that I was getting abused. I also read this in my records when [REDACTED] and I went to look at our records a number of years ago.
63. I have told everyone I know about how bad my time in foster care was. I am not afraid for everyone to know. Everyone thinks they were such nice people but I know the truth. I really want everyone to know how bad they were.

Reporting abuse to the police

64. I heard about the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry on the radio so I contacted them. They then contacted the police for me. The police came to see me and I gave a statement to them. I know my sisters have also given a statement. As far as I know a report has been sent to the procurator fiscal's office. We were waiting to hear if any action is going to be taken against the [FLS/FLT] but I have heard that both of them have since died.

Impact

65. As a result of being in care I have real abandonment issues. When I get into a relationship I always feel that I am going to be rejected. It is difficult to explain but I just think that when someone gets to know the real me they will leave me. When I get into a relationship I push people away before they get a chance to leave me. In a way I can't help feeling that I am a bad person, but I know that I am not. This could be why I am still single and don't have a partner. I have got very little self-esteem and don't think very much of myself at all. I just feel very negative about myself all the time.
66. I have tried to commit suicide seven times. The first three times was when I was still living with the foster carers. On these first three occasions [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The fourth time was when I was sixteen and pregnant with my first daughter, [REDACTED]. I was living with my mum at the time. I remember I had been working and I fell out with my mum about money. She even asked me for more money if I wanted to use the hairdryer. I couldn't stand the atmosphere. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. An ambulance was called and I was taken to the hospital where they found out I was pregnant.
67. The next time was when my two girls were born and much older. I can't really remember what triggered it but I think it was because I was getting counselling at the time and it was bringing everything that happened to me in care back to me. I went into a bout of depression. This happens to me quite a lot. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. The next time was only a couple of months later because things still weren't right.
68. The last time was about three years ago. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]. I can usually handle when I am feeling depressed and I just get on with life. There

often isn't a particular thing that triggers me [REDACTED]. It just builds up to a point where it becomes too much and I can't cope. On this last occasion I was in a psychiatric ward for a week and a half.

69. Even though I have been divorced for over twenty years I still use my married name. To me ^{FDN} [REDACTED] is just a wee lassie, and that she isn't me. I feel sorry for her. I just wish I had told somebody what was going on years ago.
70. I have a great relationship with my children. I have made a conscious effort to have a good relationship with them. We are very close to each other.

Treatment / support

71. When I was trying to get my records, maybe fifteen to twenty years ago, I ended up going to see my doctor. They recommended that I go for counselling. I went for a few sessions but I can't remember how many I went for. I have been for other counselling but I didn't feel I was getting anywhere with it. The last counselling I had would have been when I was hospitalised [REDACTED]. That would have been in 2005. I don't think any of the counselling I have had has been any good for me. Over the years, probably since 2005 I have on and off been on courses of antidepressants.

Records

72. About fifteen to twenty years ago [REDACTED] and I went to the social work offices in Robert Street, Wishaw to have a look at our files. We were allowed to sit and read our files. It was recorded there that [REDACTED] had told them in 1983 that I was still with the foster carers and that I was likely to be subjected to abuse. Nothing was ever done with the information she told them. The records were very sparse and we thought there would be a lot more information considering the length of time we were there. The social work offices are no longer in Robert Street and are now in King Street, Wishaw.

Lessons to be learned

73. It is very difficult for anything to be done to help children in care if they don't tell anyone what is going on. I think there has to be better monitoring of foster homes and more regular. The [FLS/FLT] were not monitored often enough. I feel we were just put in there and forgotten about. If one child is spared from what I went through then it will have been worthwhile me coming forward.

Other information

74. Unbelievably when I was still with the [FLS/FLT] in [REDACTED] they went to [REDACTED] to get an award for being the foster parents of the year.

75. In 1984 I decided to visit the [FLS/FLT] at [REDACTED]. I don't really know why I wanted to go but I just felt the need to go back. I probably wanted to show off my daughter to them. We went to the garden gate and I bumped into the next door neighbour. I asked the neighbour to go in and tell them I was outside. The [FLS/FLT] weren't interested and they didn't come out to see us. I have never gone to visit them again.

76. 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. [FDN] [REDACTED]

Dated. 31/1/18