

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

FBU

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is FBU. My date of birth is 1983. I am 34 years old. My contact details are known to the inquiry.

Life before being put into care

2. I lived with my mum, my dad, and my two brothers, JDY and EZR. We lived on in the Royston area of Glasgow. My brothers were both younger than me. I was brought up Catholic and we were all christened.
3. I remember my mum was a drinker and my dad was in prison. The social work were involved with us. I remember being taken away from Royston for a wee while. I was put into care with my brothers, but I don't remember where we went. I think I was about five years old. It was maybe only for a couple of weeks and then we were put back with my parents.
4. My dad ended up in prison again and my mum was still drinking, so we were taken away. I have spoken to my mum as an adult and she hasn't held anything back. She has told me that we were taken into care because she picked alcohol over us.
5. Social workers from Glenbarr Street in Royston took me and my brothers away in a black motor. My mum didn't have an option in the matter. I was about six years old, JDY was about four and EZR would have been about two years old at the time. We went into foster care and weren't allowed to go back that time.

6. I was taken to a foster carer, but I don't remember it. I don't know how long I was there, it could have been weeks or months. My brothers went somewhere else.

Moving to foster care – Margaret Mennie

7. **JDY** and **EZR** had been taken to stay with a foster carer called Margaret Mennie. They had gone straight there after being taken away from my mum. My brother **JDY** asked Margaret where I was one day. That was when Margaret Mennie found out that they had a sister.
8. Margaret Mennie called the social work and I was then taken to her place to stay. It was probably the social work who took me, but I don't remember. I was about six or seven when I went to live with Margaret Mennie.

Foster care with **Margaret Mennie (MM) - Dunblane**

9. I remember seeing the boys when I got to Margaret Mennie's house. Margaret lived in Dunblane with **[REDACTED]** She was nice and normal, and welcomed me when I got there. **[REDACTED]** was at work. He was a prison officer and worked in **[REDACTED]**
10. I lived with Margaret, **[REDACTED]** and my brothers. I don't remember anybody else being there and I don't remember much about the house. I remember there was a garden out the back. It's not there anymore. The houses have been knocked down.
11. I went to Dunblane Primary School while I was there. I remember walking home after school then going out to play. Then we would get our dinner and go to bed.
12. **[REDACTED]** worked a lot but he would do things with us when he was home. He was nice and looked after us the way that people should look after children. It was like a normal family when we stayed there. I remember everything being alright.

13. We got visits from our mum for a wee while. The social work would take me and my brothers to meet her in a wee café in Dunblane once a fortnight. The visits were stopped after a while because she was turning up drunk.
14. Social work were there quite a bit at the beginning. They would come to the house to see us. They stopped coming after a while. I think the social worker was Charlotte Currie at that time.
15. The time in Dunblane was probably the only good time I remember. Even though I don't remember much, I know it was normal. We stayed in that house for two or three years before we moved.
16. ██████ told us the house we were in was too wee so we were moving. We moved to Edinburgh and social work paid for them to convert the loft in the new house. I was in primary four or five at school when we left Dunblane.

Foster care with Margaret Mennie - Edinburgh

17. We moved to ████████████████████ in Edinburgh when I was about eight or nine years old. It was a main door house and there was a wee hall when you walked in. The living room was on the left, and then the kitchen was on the second left. There was a staircase going up straight ahead. There were three bedrooms upstairs. There was also a cupboard door that had another staircase behind it, which went up to the loft. There were two bedrooms in the loft.
18. There were lots more people in the house in Edinburgh. There was another foster child called ██████████ as well as me and my brothers. ██████ was quite a bit older than me. I think he was about thirteen years old. I don't remember ██████ being in Dunblane but he might have been. There were also two of ██████ children and two of Margaret's children who came after a while. They were from their previous relationships and were all older.

19. Margaret had a son called [REDACTED] and a daughter called [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was six or seven years older than me so he would have been fifteen or sixteen when we moved to Edinburgh, and [REDACTED] was about eighteen or nineteen. [REDACTED] had a son called [REDACTED] and a daughter called [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was probably in his late teens and [REDACTED] was also in her teens. [REDACTED] was [REDACTED] name [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
20. Me and the boys shared a bedroom on the first floor at the beginning. The other foster boy, [REDACTED] also had a bedroom on the first floor. Margaret had the third bedroom on the first floor.
21. Once the loft was finished, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] went into one of the rooms up there. Margaret's son, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] son, [REDACTED] went into the second room in the loft. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] would also come and stay over sometimes. I don't know where they usually lived. Maybe they stayed with their other parents. Margaret's brother, [REDACTED] would also stay with us sometimes too. He was about two years younger than Margaret I think.
22. Margaret and [REDACTED] split up when I was about eight or nine years old. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I always thought that [REDACTED] left us in Dunblane, but I spoke to him recently and he told me that he did move to Edinburgh with us for a wee while. I don't really remember him being in the Edinburgh house with us.
23. [REDACTED] told me that when he used to come home from work, he would find us at home by ourselves and that Margaret would be out.
24. Margaret had a lot of men after [REDACTED] left. She would bring different guys home all the time. Some would be for the night but some would stay for weeks or months. She had a boyfriend called [REDACTED] who stuck around for months. I think his surname was [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Daily Routine

25. We got ourselves ready for school in the morning. My pals would chap the door and I would leave with them to walk to school. I went to Drum Brae Primary School, which was about a fifteen or twenty minute walk from the house. My brothers were at the same school, but I don't remember who walked them to school. I know Margaret never took them so I think they just walked with their pals too.
26. After school, we would walk home and sometimes Margaret's son, [REDACTED] would be home to let us in. If nobody was home then we would have to go and find Margaret in the pub. The pub was about a twenty minute walk from the house. We would either get her to come home, and if she didn't want to, then we would get the keys for the house from her.
27. Once we were in the house, we would put our bags down and go out and play. We would be out playing all the time while she was in the pub.
28. We had normal chores like having to clean our rooms.

Schooling

29. I got bullied at that school for a wee while. I don't know if it was because of the way Margaret dressed us because she didn't dress us well. She also cut my hair short. I think things like that didn't help the bullying.
30. I had to eventually tell Margaret that she had to buy me decent clothes or I wasn't going to school. I just wanted clothes like everybody else and like her own kids got.
31. I started high school while we lived there and I went to Craigmount High School. I was just going into second year, but we moved again when I was eleven and I had to move school.

Food

32. I can't remember getting breakfast in the morning but I don't know if that was my choice because I didn't really eat breakfast. We got lunch at school.
33. Margaret was never in so we never got dinner. There would be some food in the cupboards but we weren't allowed to go and help ourselves. When Margaret was in, she would just give us money to go to the chippie. We would have to wait until she came home from the pub at night, which would sometimes be at 10 pm. We never got any dinner if she was drunk.
34. Margaret did cook the odd meal like stew or steak. I don't remember sitting down to a meal every night. There was a dining table but we never sat at it.
35. Margaret would give us money to go to John Menzies or Safeway at the weekends. We would also be allowed to play in the bottle bank. We could play on top of them.

Visits

36. I remember Charlotte and Ian Henderson, our social workers, coming out to see us. I think I saw them every few months. Margaret would tell us that the social work were coming and not to say anything to them. She would tell us not to mention that her boyfriend, FCM was there. Then she would tell us she would take us into town afterwards and buy us this and that.
37. The social workers would sometimes speak to us when they came, but not every time. We never got to speak to them on our own without Margaret. We did as we were told by Margaret and didn't say anything
38. I think social workers kind of knew what was going on but let us continue to stay there. They used to come round and try to catch Margaret drunk. I know that because they told me recently.

39. I didn't have any contact with my mum or dad in Edinburgh. Contact with my mum had been stopped by then.

Medical care

40. I can't remember going to the doctor or dentist. I only remember going to the optician.
41. We would get taken by the social work to get a medical. They would pick us up and take us to Glasgow for our medical, and then drop us back off. I think that happened once a year.

Abuse

42. Margaret treated me and my brothers differently from how she treated all the other kids. The three of us were just left to do our own thing. We were locked in cupboards and in our rooms. We weren't given our dinner. My wee brothers were tied to their bed. This never happened to any of the other kids.
43. If we were bad to Margaret then she would lock us in the cupboard on the ground floor. I don't know what bad to her was, because we never actually done anything bad. She would do it if she was drunk or in a bad mood. It was a long, narrow cupboard that held shoes and coats. There was no light or windows in it. It didn't have a lock but we weren't allowed out so we would be too scared to leave.
44. Margaret would put us in the cupboard and we would be left there all night. Me and my brothers never got put in there together, but it did happen to all of us separately. I got put in there about a couple of times a week. There was a sleeping bag in the cupboard that I would use to sleep in.
45. I used to be scared to be in the cupboard overnight but I knew I would get in trouble if I came out. We could only get out when she would come to get you in the morning.

She would then ask us if we had thought about things, but we were only weans and we weren't bad weans.

46. Margaret's own kids or ██████ were never put in the cupboard. I've asked ██████ why he thinks that he didn't get the same treatment as me and my brothers but he doesn't know.
47. Margaret also used to tie my brothers, JDY and EZR to their beds. She would do this because they would get out of their beds at night because they were hungry or going to the toilet. She said they weren't allowed to get out of their bed so her and her boyfriend, FCM would tie them to their beds. They tied their hands to the bunk bed while they were lying on the bed. That happened to them twice that I am aware of.
48. I remember hearing Margaret and FCM shouting at the boys for getting out of their beds. I got up to see what was happening and saw them both tying the boys to their beds. I said they shouldn't be tying them up, and that they weren't allowed to do that. I was arguing about it and telling FCM that he shouldn't have even been in the house with us, and FCM slapped me on the face. I remember I sneaked the boys some biscuits up after that.
49. ██████ Margaret's brother, stayed in the house for a couple of weeks with an African lady. It was someone he had brought home from Africa. He used to physically abuse her every night. I saw this happening and the woman used to shout on me to help her. I don't remember her name, but I knew him as ██████
50. We would also get physically hurt. Margaret would smack us with her hands or with a wooden spoon. We would get hit whether we were bad or not. I don't know what her problem was.
51. We never really got fed because she was never in and we weren't allowed to help ourselves. We would have to wait until she came home and she would give us money to go to the chippie.

52. Margaret would just leave us in the house and go to the pub. It was neglect. She was an alcoholic and that's the bottom line.

Foster care with Margaret Mennie - [REDACTED]

53. I remember leaving Edinburgh when I was about twelve years old. I was just told we were leaving tomorrow so I never got to say cheerio to a lot of my friends in Edinburgh.
54. I don't know why we moved to [REDACTED] I think it was just because Margaret wanted to. We moved to a pub, which wasn't very good, but she was allowed to do it.
55. Margaret, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and the three of us moved to [REDACTED] I don't remember [REDACTED] being there with us but he has since told me that he moved with us to [REDACTED] but was only there for a wee while. Margaret's brother, [REDACTED] came with us too, but the African lady wasn't there.
56. The house was attached to the pub. When you walked in, there were two doors. You walked in one door to go into the pub and if you went straight up the stairs, then you were into the house.
57. The pub was downstairs and the house was upstairs. The kitchen, bathroom and all the rooms were upstairs. There was about twelve rooms. I think the place was maybe supposed to be a hotel or something. There was also an extra bit attached to the pub, which was like a granny flat but you could only get into it from outside.
58. [REDACTED] lived in the attached flat with her boyfriend and her children. The rest of us lived above the pub. I had my own room, and [REDACTED] JDY and [REDACTED] EZR shared a room. [REDACTED] had his own room too.

Daily routine

59. Margaret would shout at us to get up in the morning. JDY and EZR were ten and eight years old. They would get themselves ready. JDY and EZR would climb the wall behind the pub, and their school was right there. I would get ready then go and get the school bus.
60. After school, we would come home. We would go into the pub to say we were home and Margaret would be drunk. Then we would just go upstairs. The house would just be open so we didn't need a key to go upstairs.
61. At bedtime, we would just go to bed. We just knew it was bedtime and done everything ourselves. She would be steaming drunk.

Food

62. I can't remember breakfast but that's maybe because I didn't eat. I don't remember her ever saying that breakfast was ready or telling us to eat breakfast.
63. Margaret put a lock on the kitchen door in this house so we couldn't go into the kitchen and get food when we wanted to. We would need to go and ask her for dinner or ask if she was making it. She would give us money to go to the chippie.

School

64. I had to start ██████████ High School when we moved to ██████████ I think I was still in first year and going into second year when I started there. I got bullied a bit when I started there but again I think that was just because Margaret didn't care how we looked.

Trips and visits

65. We never saw our mum when we lived in [REDACTED] My mum had been writing to us but Margaret hadn't been giving us the letters. I know that because I found quite a lot of them.
66. My mum started sending letters to the social work and they would give them to us. My mum did send me a parcel and that caused a fight with Margaret which led to me leaving.

Birthdays and Christmases

67. I remember one Christmas when I got a Donald Duck hairdryer, which was quite nice. That is the only time I remember celebrating anything like it.
68. Birthdays weren't really marked. She would celebrate my brother ^{JDY} [REDACTED] birthday on the wrong day every year. His birthday was on [REDACTED] and she always had it on the [REDACTED] She didn't have big parties for us. I don't remember having a birthday party.
69. We had been brought up Catholic with my mum but Margaret wasn't religious so we never got to make our communion.

Abuse

70. Things were a lot worse in [REDACTED] than they had been in Edinburgh
71. It got to the point where Margaret wouldn't even know if we were in or out. I was allowed to go from [REDACTED] to Edinburgh on a bus to go shopping with my pals when I was eleven and twelve. I would never let my kids do that, but I would ask her and she would say aye.

72. The kitchen had a lock on it so you couldn't get food. We would need to ask her for our dinner and she would give us money to go to the chippie. We never had pocket money so we didn't have our own money. I ended up stealing from her.
73. Margaret abused us physically and emotionally. We weren't being locked up in cupboards but she was still hitting us. She would just grab us as if we were a piece of shit.
74. Margaret would verbally abuse us. She would say that none of our family loved us. She would also say that our mum was a prostitute and that was why we were in care. I didn't know if that was the case or not. I found out later that it wasn't.
75. I just did my own thing in [REDACTED] because Margaret was always drunk. We would have been better with our own mum. Margaret would be so drunk that she would sometimes have to be carried up the stairs by men from the pub. She would also be sleeping with the men from the pub.
76. My wee brother, **JDY**, later hung himself. She was doing something to him that he wasn't happy about.

Leaving foster care

77. I was in [REDACTED] for about a year and a half, if that, before I got moved. My mum had sent me black boots. They weren't even nice, but she had sent them. Margaret said they weren't appropriate because they were black with a wee heel. She said my mum was a prostitute. I said she wasn't and was answering her back.
78. [REDACTED] punched me in the mouth because I was arguing with Margaret, and burst my lip open. She was pregnant at the time. [REDACTED] boyfriend called me a wee tart. I hadn't even kissed a boy by then and he was calling me that.

79. Margaret then physically dragged me downstairs and put me out the front door. She told me to get out and locked the door. It was about 9 pm so I went and stayed with a friend until the next morning.
80. When I went back the next morning, the police were there. I saw the car but didn't see them. Margaret had reported me missing, which I wasn't, because she had put me out. She was obviously covering her own back. Social workers were there to pick me up. It was Ian Henderson, who was working from Royston social work, and somebody else.
81. I wasn't even allowed back in the house. I had to go straight into the car to be taken away. She had told social workers I had ran away. I told them that I hadn't and that she had put me out. I told them everything that had happened and showed them the cut on my lip from where I had been punched. Margaret denied it and said I had ran away. Ian said I was being taken away because Margaret didn't want me there anymore.
82. JDY and EZR left with me, but it wasn't because of anything I had said about Margaret. Ian said it would be better if the two boys came for a while to give Margaret a break, but that the boys would be going back. Margaret made out that she was having a nervous breakdown. The boys were taken away to give Margaret a break and not because of their safety.
83. I told Ian everything that had been going on that day. I told him about being locked in cupboards, Margaret's drinking and being hit. It wasn't news to him. He said he knew about Margaret's drinking.

Milton Children's Home, Bishopbriggs

84. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

85. JDY and EZR stayed with me for three weeks at the most and then they went back to Margaret. I tried to stop them going back but I couldn't. I fought with the social work because of everything that had happened

86. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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89.

90.

Visits with my brothers

91. I saw my brothers every week. Social workers would get me then go and pick them up, and we would go to McDonalds or something. They would also sometimes pick them up and bring them straight through to Glasgow to see me.

92. The boys would tell me they were fine. EZR went the same way as me and had started to see that things weren't right. He started to speak up when things weren't right. He started to tell me that Margaret was drunk all the time and other things that were going on. Nothing had changed. JDY always said things were fine, but he was just quiet. EZR was more vocal like me.

93. EZR started speaking up to Margaret. He would say they should be getting money and things. Margaret didn't like that and she wanted rid of EZR.
94. JDY and EZR got moved again after a while because Margaret wanted rid of EZR. They got moved to another respite carer then JDY returned back to Margaret after two weeks, but EZR stayed with the respite carer.
95. JDY must have been fourteen years old or almost fourteen when he went back to stay with Margaret without EZR. I was still in contact with JDY for a while when he went back to Margaret's, but then social workers told me he didn't want to see me anymore.
96. I asked Ian Henderson why JDY didn't want to see me and he said he didn't know. I told them to find out but they didn't. I knew it was because Margaret had poisoned him against me.
97. I was still seeing EZR every week. I would just go by myself as I was about fourteen years old.

Kerelaw Residential School, Stevenston

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Blackthorn Street Unit, Springburn

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

104.

105.

106.

107.



108. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

JDY's death

109. I hadn't seen JDY for a whole year, then eventually social work told me that he did want to see me. This was in April 2001. It was totally out of the blue.
110. Social workers brought JDY through to see me. I met him in Springburn. He still said everything was fine. I asked him if he got out to play with his pals, and he said aye. I knew what he lived with, but nothing else jumped out at me about him being down or anything. That was the last time I ever saw him.
111. JDY died in 2001 when he was fifteen. Ian Henderson said he had accidentally hung himself, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
112. The circumstances around JDY's death were very weird. Margaret couldn't identify the body because she wasn't in a good enough state. She was drunk. Social work told me this at the time. He was registered dead on Wednesday by the police even though he'd died on the Sunday. The social work should have registered his death.
113. JDY would have been sixteen years old in the [REDACTED] of that year. He must have come to see me in April to say goodbye.

Leaving the care system

114. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

115. Secondary Institutions - to be published later
- 116.
- 117.
118. I left Kerelaw when I was eighteen and went to stay with a supported carer in [REDACTED] Glasgow. The woman I stayed with worked for the Royal College of Nursing and worked quite a lot. She would leave me in the house alone and trusted me. She was a lovely woman and lived alone. I knew she was a supported carer in order to actually care. She was so lovely.
119. The woman I was staying with said that she had only received a piece of paper about me and she had to decide from that whether she wanted me to stay with her.
120. I had my child while I was living with this supported carer. I stayed with her for about two years until I was twenty years old. When I was twenty, the social work got me my own private let.
121. When I was 21, social work phoned me and said they were taking me off their books. They felt I was ok and was a good mum. I hadn't been on the books because of my kid, I had been on the books because of myself.
122. Through Care helped me with my private let. I would have preferred a council house but that was ok for then.

Reporting of abuse

123. I told my friends what was happening at home with Margaret when I lived in Edinburgh. They witnessed a lot of it themselves too. They saw Margaret being abusive towards us and being in the pub all the time. They have recently given statements to the police about it.
124. I first told the social work what was going on in foster care when I was twelve. That was the day I left foster care when we lived in [REDACTED] I told them the abuse was worse now because Margaret owned her own pub. I feared for my brothers' lives. I knew what she was doing was wrong at the age of twelve so somebody had to be told.
125. When I told Ian Henderson, he said that they had already suspected things, and they knew about Margaret's drinking. It wasn't news to them.
126. JDY and EZR were also taken away when I was taken away, but that was only because Margaret wanted a break. I fought with the social work for them not to take JDY and EZR back to her. I told them about all the things that had happened to us with Margaret. I told Ian Henderson everything about being locked up in cupboards and being hit, and about Margaret always being drunk.
127. When I told my social workers about everything Margaret had done, they said they'd pass it on. Then they just said that they had reported it back but their boss had overruled it, and JDY and EZR were taken back to Margaret's.
128. I told all the staff at Milton Children's Home about everything that had happened in Margaret's care. As far as I was concerned, we hadn't done anything wrong so I told everybody who would listen.
129. I spoke to the police in 2017 and gave a statement about what happened with Margaret. They also took statements from some of my Edinburgh school friends, as

well as [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and my brother, EZR [REDACTED]. Margaret was then charged with two assaults on the boys and a neglect on all of us.

130. The police told me Margaret was going to appear in court in December 2017 to make a plea of guilty or not, but it was cancelled. I have since heard from the police that the case is still open and they are waiting for another court date.

Life after foster care

131. I have two girls and a boy. My daughter, [REDACTED] is fifteen years old now. My other daughter is thirteen years old and my boy is eight. I am also pregnant and have a baby due soon. I got my first council house about eight years ago.
132. My kids have been christened. Me and my brother were christened with my mum but Margaret wasn't religious so we never got to make our communion. My kids ask me why I haven't made my communion. I tell them the truth and say that I was in care. I don't lie to them.
133. I am at college doing an NPA course to help me get into an HNC. I am at level five and I need to get to level six before I can apply for an HNC in social services. I also volunteer at a children's home. I have been to mentor meetings at the actual unit but I haven't yet been assigned a young person. I am getting there.
134. I do the parent council at my kids' school. I am always running around after my kids.
135. Margaret is about seventy years old now. She is in Dumfries. I have never been in touch with her. I hate her. [REDACTED] Her daughter, [REDACTED] lives in Ayr and had bought another pub, which was up for sale.
136. I have been in touch with [REDACTED] recently. I hadn't seen him since he left us all those years ago. He said he didn't know what was going on with us when we were with Margaret. I have also met [REDACTED] and he says that his mum, Margaret, is dead to

him as far as he is concerned. Something has obviously happened between him and Margaret.

137. Margaret had my brother's death registered and managed to register his name as [REDACTED] on his death certificate and on his gravestone. That wasn't his name so I don't know how she managed that. I have fought to change that and have managed to get the name on the death register and on his gravestone changed.
138. I have never really worked but I have an NC in social care. I started my HNC a few years ago in [REDACTED] College, but I ended up in hospital and had to leave because of my stomach problems.

Medical treatment

139. I was ordered by the court to attend at Leverndale mental health hospital and also see a community practise nurse for a year. This was when I was sixteen. After that, I saw Glasgow Association of Mental Health. Then I saw a psychiatrist at Springpark.
140. I attempted to commit suicide a lot when I was younger and was put on anti-depressants when I was seventeen, after I had my daughter. I haven't [REDACTED] or anything for a long time now, but I had to call the crisis team recently and speak to them because I felt suicidal.
141. I have been seeing psychologists and psychiatrists continuously and still do. I usually see them about every three months.
142. I developed gastroparesis after I had my first child, when I was seventeen. This can be caused by diabetes but I don't have diabetes. Doctors think it is because of post-traumatic stress.

143. Gastroparesis has affected quite a lot in my life. I was in hospital for my daughter's communion. I have also had to have birthdays in the hospital for my children because I am in hospital so much.

Impact

144. I moved schools a lot when I was young and was allowed to do what I wanted in foster care. School was ok in Edinburgh but I got bullied because of the way we were dressed. I had to move school again when we moved to [REDACTED] and didn't know anybody. I was getting bullied and couldn't concentrate on any of my school work so I just wouldn't go. I was miserable.
145. I wasn't brought up with any structure, so when I was sent to Kerelaw for not going to school, I struggled. I feel that the moving schools, bad clothes and not having structure affected my education. I look back and wish I went to school. If I had a better education, it would have helped me get better jobs as an adult. It has held me back work wise in life.
146. I have gone to college as an adult to get some qualifications. These are qualifications I could have gotten at school. I have had to go back one day a week because I have kids and also because of my health problems. It has had a huge effect on my life.
147. I tried to [REDACTED] three times in total when I was younger, but I was also [REDACTED]. When I went to court for attacking the boy when I was sixteen, the judge sent me to a mental health hospital instead of jail. He obviously thought the problems were with my past.
148. I tried to commit suicide when I was younger and I still have suicidal thoughts. I have continuously seen psychologists and psychiatrists since I was seventeen, and have had depression my whole life. Doctors have said that it is due to past trauma.

149. I do still feel suicidal sometimes. I just feel that I don't want to be here. I have regular weekly contact with my GP because of my suicidal thoughts. I wouldn't do anything about it though because I've got three weans.
150. My time in foster care has affected me mentally. I think about it every day. I blame my problems on my time with Margaret in foster care. I hate her. I also blame the social work. I told them what was happening and they didn't do anything.
151. I had problems with my mental health before [JDY] died, but after he died, it made things a lot worse. I feel a lot of my problems now are because of [JDY]'s death. I just can't get my head around the fact that I told the social workers at the time about what was happening with Margaret, but they let him stay there and then he died. He shouldn't have been there for that to happen to him. I cry for [JDY] every day. Doctors have told me that a lot of my depression and problems are because my feelings about [JDY] still feel so raw.
152. My gastroparesis has affected my life a lot because I am in hospital so much. I also have to be really careful about what I eat. Doctors have told me that they put it down to trauma because they feel that stress from things in my past have affected my stomach.

Records

153. I got my records about thirteen years ago from social work. I sat in the social work office and read them, but I didn't take them away. I was just trying to get information on [JDY] but there wasn't much in it. I tried to get [JDY]'s records but they refused me. I am going to see if I can get them through Future Pathways.
154. When [JDY] died in 2001, I was told he had accidentally hung himself. Sixteen years later, social work are saying it was suicide. I spoke to a manager at Parkhead social work department called Kevin Miller. He was helping me to get [JDY]'s death

certificate fixed. He told me it was suicide. A few social workers, including Ian Henderson have said that.

155. A social work report was sent to Scottish Government about the death of my brother. It was written by a social worker called Martin Kettle. I have tried to get that but haven't been able to. I don't know what it says on the report.

Other information

156. When our foster carer wanted to get rid of one of us, all three of us would be moved. I don't know why they moved all of us because they would just give her back the kids that she wanted after a couple of weeks. We never got moved because we weren't happy or because of our safety. We got moved because Margaret wanted rid of one of us.
157. Every child in care needs to have their voice listened to and that is not happening. I told social work about the problems in foster care and they brushed it under the carpet. They let my brother hang himself and Margaret got away with it. Social work failed us. I hate them.
158. 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..... 

Dated..... 19 / 02 / 18