

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of FDX [REDACTED]

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is FDX [REDACTED] my date of birth is the [REDACTED] 1981. I am 36 years old. My contact details are known to the inquiry.
2. I want to tell you about a three month period of foster care I spent in 1986 with the JBO-JBP [REDACTED] family at [REDACTED] East Kilbride, Scotland. I was only four or five years old and I do not have a complete memory of my time spent there. My father has told me a lot of what led up to me going there. He has also told me a lot of what went on when I was there.

Background

3. I was the only son of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I was born in Glasgow and resided with my father in [REDACTED] Glasgow where he worked as a fireman.
4. My mother did not keep well and suffered from depression. There were times when my mother would get angry and I recall my mother assaulting my father by throwing him down a flight of stairs. My mother was dependant on alcohol and my father tried to stop her drinking. My father never raised a hand to my mother. She spent a lot of time in bed.

Life before being put into care.

5. I didn't have an understanding of mental illness at that early age. My mother passed away and my father told me that she had died of pneumonia. It was not until I was older and had a better understanding of mental illness that he sat me down and told me that my mother had committed suicide.
6. My father was struggling to cope with caring for my mother who had mental illness, trying to look after me, trying to work as a fireman on shift work and trying to run the [REDACTED] house.
7. He told me that one day he was taking me to nursery school and asked my mother if she needed the doctor as she was ill in bed. She declined this offer. When my father returned to the house the emergency services were all there and my mother had [REDACTED] and had died.
8. I remember that for most of my early years my mother was in bed. My father did not manage to cope and he had a breakdown and was admitted to hospital.
9. Initially I was sent to my grandmothers but she also had her hands full nursing my grandfather who suffered from severe emphysema. It was not practical for me to remain there. I was about four years old. I then went to live with my aunt but she had two older children. I had to be taken to nursery school every day and it proved too much for her to look after me as well.
10. As far as I was aware the social work were involved. I didn't have much dealings with them. The name of the social worker was Miss Reid and I recall I was her first case. I was taken in a car by two men and Miss Reid. I thought I was going to my Uncle [REDACTED]'s house. It was explained to me that my father was ill and I was going to spend some time with a different family.
11. I remember that I took a small case and some of my toys. I didn't want to go to a stranger's house. I was quite upset.

Moving to foster care with JBO-JBP family at ██████████ East Kilbride.*Routine and early memories*

12. I remember arriving at JBO-JBP house. It was an upstairs and downstairs house. It had patio doors to the garden. There was a snooker table and a television. The kitchen was quite small but there was a large living room. I think I must have been about four years old.
13. The first two days that I spent there I sat in a corner of one of the rooms and refused to speak to anyone.
14. The occupants of the house were Mr JBO ██████████ who worked away from home most of the time in the Middle East. His wife was called JBP ██████████ and they had two children called ██████████ who was eleven and ██████████ who was about six. The children were treated differently to me. I was the black sheep. I never saw JBO-JBP children being slapped for bad behaviour.
15. I slept in a bunk bed in the boy's room with ██████████ ██████████ had her own room. I was on the bottom bunk and ██████████ had the top bunk. Neither ██████████ or ██████████ wanted me around when they were playing with their friends. They spent a lot of time making fun of me.
16. One of the first nights that I was there I wet the bed. I had never wet the bed before going into foster care. I thought that I could cover this up by getting a towel from the bathroom and trying to clean the sheets. Mrs JBP ██████████ discovered the wet bed and was not pleased. I recall sitting at breakfast and she came downstairs. She started hitting my head off the settee and she was screaming at me. I think that she thought if she was angry I wouldn't wet the bed. I remember she called me a "moron".
17. I think that this made me worse and I continued to wet the bed. It meant that most mornings I would be slapped about the head and be shouted at. It happened all the time I was there.

18. There was another occasion that I had defecated in the bed. I was due to stay with my father over the coming weekend and I remember JBP told my father that I was to be punished for messing the bed and that I wouldn't be allowed to go with my father. I was also hit for messing the bed.
19. JBO-JBP children had a new computer and they would play with it all the time. I was not allowed to play with it and I remember how upsetting that was.
20. JBO-JBP had a golden retriever dog. The dog was the only friend I had in the house. I used to sit on the dog as if it was a horse.
21. This might have been the start of some of my mental health problems but I remember that in the back garden there was a blue plastic lid on a string. I used to think it was Donald Duck and I used to speak to the lid. No one knew I was doing this.

Visits

22. My father used to visit every week and take me home every weekend. I would be taken out every Wednesday by my father who had to make a long bus journey from his house to East Kilbride. My father often had my cousin with him and we would go somewhere nice. I had to be back at the foster parents in the early evening and then my father had to get the bus home.
23. I can remember when my father used to visit he would give JBO-JBP money to take me and the other children to the cinema or wherever. JBO-JBP used to take out their children and I was left behind with a woman I didn't know who would look after me. I don't think my father knew that this was happening. JBO-JBP used my dad's money to entertain their two children.
24. I also remember my father coming to the foster carers and he used to sit and play with me in the house. I never told my father what was happening to me.

25. I think that I do remember my social worker Miss Reid coming to visit me when I was in foster care but I definitely didn't tell her what was going on.

Playing and leisure time

26. Basically [JBO-JBP] children didn't want anything to do with me and I wasn't made to feel welcome. I loved playing on my own with my model cars. When I left I wasn't able to take the cars with me.

Holidays

27. I do remember being taken on a holiday to a caravan. I don't know where the caravan was and I can't remember much about it.

Schooling

28. When I was at [JBO-JBP] I was still going to nursery school. [JBP] always took me by car. I think that I also went to some sort of Sunday school. I was too young to remember much about it. I can't remember any problems with the schools.

Food

29. I wasn't malnourished or anything like that. I think that the food was fine. I do remember being given a hard-boiled egg on one occasion. I thought that you had to eat the shell as well. When [JBP] saw me eating the shell she gave me a slap. I didn't know any better.

Pocket money

30. My dad used to give money to [JBO-JBP] family to spend on me but they never did and used the money to spend on their own children. I only learned this after I had left the [JBO-JBP] when my father told me. I was too young to realise what was going on.

Abuse suffered at JBO-JBP foster care.

31. There was an occasion when I was grabbed by Mr JBO and he pulled me out of the room by my collar. I think that I had been swearing. I had picked up swear words when my mother and father had been arguing and I didn't know that you weren't allowed to use them despite the fact that my father had told me that they were bad words. He didn't hit me but he sent me up to my room.
32. I recall being assaulted by the children at the house. I woke up one morning and the kids asked me to climb up onto the top bunk with them. I climbed the small ladder. spat in my face and pushed me off the bed. I landed on the floor and started to cry. JBP came in and I told her what had happened. She didn't take any action against her children.
33. I would get a slap from JBP for no real reasons. I can remember being slapped for colouring outside the lines in a colouring book. It didn't make any sense to me. Why did she need to slap on the back of the head. I didn't know what I was doing wrong.
34. On another occasion JBP kicked me down a small flight of stairs. There were about seven stairs I was playing at the top of the stairs. She kicked me and I sort of rolled down. It was painful at the time. It just made me feel very vulnerable.
35. There was another occasion when I was playing outside and was talking to two girls. JBP shouted for me to come back inside and she gave me a slap for talking to strangers.
36. I remember that my dad told me that he had given JBO-JBP some money to get me a haircut. I never got the haircut and there was a photograph taken it showed me with a long fringe that needed cut. I never got the haircut and JBO-JBP pocketed the money.

37. JBP used to bath me. She used to wash my hair but instead of rinsing my hair she used to push my head backwards under the water and hold it there. I can remember looking up and seeing her face as she held me under the water.
38. I remember coming back from the supermarket in the car. We got back to the house and I had been arguing with JBP I refused to get out the car and she told me that she would lock me in. I "cooried in" to the door on the back seat. She then opened the door and dragged me out by the hood of my jacket and into the house.

Reporting of abuse during JBO-JBP foster care

39. I was not able to tell anyone what was happening to me when I was at JBO-JBP I didn't tell my father and I didn't tell the social worker. My only real happy memories of foster care with JBO-JBP were playing with the dog and the day I left.

Leaving foster care

40. My father had left the Fire Brigade at this time and what I later learned was that he was finding it very hard to travel across to East Kilbride to see me. He convinced the social services that he was very capable of looking after me.
41. After about three months at JBO-JBP my father told me that he was taking me home. I was never so glad because I was still wetting the bed and was being punished for it. My father got a special device which would ring a buzzer when I was wetting. He would then come to my room and get me up and take me to the toilet. I wasn't being punished anymore.
42. My father tried other things but what worked was him getting me up in the night and when I was aged seven I stopped wetting the bed.

Life after foster care

43. When I returned home to my father's House I went to Sandyford Nursery School and then on to St Patrick's Primary School in Glasgow. I had no issues with these schools. I went to secondary school at St Thomas Aquinas in Scotstoun, Glasgow.
44. I was bullied when I was at secondary school. I was a target because the other kids saw that my hands shook and I gave the appearance of being nervous. I was called names including [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED] It was not a pleasant experience.
45. I remember an incident when one of the other kids spat on me. I retaliated by shouting and swearing at the boy. I showed the spit on my jacket to my father and he passed the information on to the guidance teacher.
46. There was another kid who told everyone that I wanted to fight with them. He knew the buttons to push and was making my life a misery. I was standing at the bus stop and when the bus came I wanted to throw myself under the bus. I went home and told my dad who contacted the deputy headmaster Mr McGarrell. He was a really nice man.
47. The deputy head called me in to see him and told me that he would deal with the boy. I suggested to him that we wait and see and if he bullies me again I will report him and let the school deal with him. He continued to bully me .After the boy had been to see the deputy head he changed completely and was very pleasant to me. I don't know what was said to him.
48. I was eighteen when I left school with qualifications in art. I wanted to do an art and design course at college but I didn't have quite enough qualifications. I did get on to a cake design course at college but I was being bullied because I was not fast enough compared to the other students. The lecturers used to make fun of me. I recall one of them asking me in front of the class if I had landed my space ship yet. I

retorted that I had landed it on top of his car. He didn't like that very much. It was very degrading.

49. I managed to get on an art and design course at The College of Commerce. From there I went to The North Glasgow College where I completed a National Certificate. I got on really well there. I was in my early twenties. There were no more courses for to take at this time.
50. My life started to go downhill as I needed anti-depressant tablets. My doctor wanted me to stay on seroxat tablets. I was not told by the doctor that the seroxat tablets were addictive. There was no patient information that came with the seroxat tablets that warned you of the addictive nature of the drugs.
51. The doctors at my surgery changed and the new doctor who was a German lady managed to get me off the seroxat. It took eight months. There were a lot of side effects including flash backs and electric activity within my body.
52. I am now on long term medication for depression. My condition has meant that I have never managed to work. I am too nervous. I have been on state benefits all my working life to this time.
53. In 2012 I was diagnosed with a deep vein thrombosis and I have been on warfarin ever since. My international normalised ratio is being constantly checked for coagulant levels.
54. I have also received counselling after being assaulted in Glasgow whilst standing at a bus stop. I did report this to the Police but they were unable to identify the persons responsible. I was put on to victim support by the Police and I got help from the counselling service.
55. I was referred to a Doctor Burn at The Shaw Park Resource Centre. She in turn referred me on to a psychiatrist for counselling. I was probably in my mid-twenties. I was suffering from obsessive compulsive disorder and depression. I was also getting

assistance from a community psychiatric nurse who would call at the house. My medication is constantly monitored and I am being well looked after.

56. I was also referred to [REDACTED] where I attended every day for ten years. It was a meeting place for people with mental health issues. Unfortunately [REDACTED] lost its funding and closed so I now attend a place called [REDACTED]. It is a great place to go to do various activities.

Impact

57. When I left foster care I was badly affected by OCD and depression. It meant that I have to do things in a certain way and if I don't do it properly I felt some harm could come to me or my family.
58. I think about my foster placement every day. I feel anger, hate and sadness. I wonder all the time what I did to get hit. I ask people and they tell me not to blame myself.
59. If I see things on the news about abused kids it brings it all back. It makes me angry for them. I have a lot of resentment for [REDACTED] family and now I want to "put it to bed" and get over it. I just want to do what I can for other children by speaking to you at the Inquiry.

Reporting abuse suffered at [REDACTED] foster care placement.

60. The first time I revealed what had happened to me was when I was on a trip into town with my father. I was about seven years old. My father and I were walking towards a café that I sometimes went to with [REDACTED] and it had very bad memories. I started to pull back and that is when I told my father what had happened to me in care with [REDACTED] family. I remember [REDACTED] family also wrote a

letter to my father and I think that it was written in the event that I had said anything to him about my treatment in their care.

- 61. I do not want to make a report to the police although if there are children at risk because of JBO-JBP family I would certainly speak to them and give them as much information as they would need.

Records

- 62. I have never tried to access my social work records. Most of my memories come from my father.

Lesson to be learned.

- 63. I think that here should be better background checks made on foster parents. They should be vetted better. There are a lot of fragile kids out there who need help and they should be placed in a solid foundation with appropriate care.
- 64. 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.. FDX

Dated.. 4/5/18