

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

MON

Support person present: No.

1. My name is MON. My date of birth is 1973. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Background

2. I do not have a spouse. I have two children. I do not have any qualifications. My current address is Beith and I am employed.

Life before sharing home with foster children

3. My family homes when my parents fostered children were and Beith, which were three bedroom houses. I stayed at both addresses with my mother and father, PBG-SPO and also my brother and my half-brother who is now deceased.

Parent(s) becoming foster carers

4. My parents started to foster children forty years ago. We found out that they were going to foster when my mum and dad told us. I never thought much about it as we were helping other children in need.
5. We were never involved with all the stuff regarding why our parents decided to foster, the process of them becoming foster carers, or whether they got any training as we were too young to understand it.

6. I don't know if they got any training, or written instructions and I don't know what support they got, whether they had a social worker or if they got any financial support.

Foster carer arrangements at your home

7. We fostered quite a lot of kids over a forty year period, who were all ages and both genders and we fostered siblings together.
8. It varied how many children my parents fostered, over what periods, their ages and gender, as it depended on how many children we took on.

Placement preparation

9. We never got involved in the notice my parents got that a foster child was coming to live with us. My parents would tell us a few weeks before they arrived and we never got told anything about their background. We just got on with it regardless.
10. I can't comment on whether we met a foster child before they came to stay with us. I think they just arrived and that was it and we all got on great.

Daily routine and sleeping arrangements

11. Our house was always tidy and was just a normal household. We didn't do chores. Everyone had their own bed.

Washing and bathing

12. There was one bathroom that everyone had access to and there was a lock on the door.

Clothes and shoes

13. Everyone had their own clothes and my mum did all the washing and pressing of them.

Mealtimes

14. My mum did the cooking and everyone was fed the same

Leisure time

15. We spent time outside and everyone had a great time.

Trips and holidays

16. We never went many holidays.

Schooling

17. I was older than the kids we fostered so I never went to the same school.

Healthcare

18. My mum looked after us all if we were unwell. We went to Beith Health Clinic and we all had the same dentist.

Christmas and Birthdays

19. Everyone got treated the same at Christmas and birthdays.

Discipline

20. If we were bad, my dad would send us to our room and we weren't allowed out.

Contact with family

21. I don't know if the foster children had contact with their real parents.

Visitors

22. Social workers visited regularly, but we always went out.

Moving placement

23. I know nothing about why the foster children moved.
24. I still keep in contact with some of the kids we fostered. We adopted one called [REDACTED], who still lives with us, and another called [REDACTED].

Relationship with foster children

25. We were all treated the same.

CONVICTIONS

26. I do not have any convictions regarding child abuse.

ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE

Awareness of abuse

27. No abuse took place in our household.

Reporting to police [REDACTED]

28. Allegations were made by two children my parents fostered, LYG [REDACTED] and her sister [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

29. LYG [REDACTED] had made the allegations straight after she got chucked out of the house as she wanted my mum to pay off her debt of over £20,000.

Specific allegations that have been made to the Inquiry

30. I am aware that LYG [REDACTED] has given a statement to the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry. I have been provided with a copy of that statement.

31. Within that statement she says "I was sexually abused by MON [REDACTED] and then also by [REDACTED] the son, after [REDACTED] left. I remember the first time it happened. I don't know the precise date, but I know where this can be found. PBG [REDACTED] used to keep a wee, blue book in a drawer where she noted the details of the babies she fostered. I told the police about it [REDACTED] The first time it happened was the same day the foster parents went to Largs to pick up a baby called [REDACTED] whose dad had been stabbed. [REDACTED] came over that day with my nana to watch us. [REDACTED] and I were in our room. I was on the top bunk and she was on the bottom. MON [REDACTED] came up onto the top bunk with me, and [REDACTED] went to the bottom with [REDACTED] I remember I had a purple teddy and a pink toy dog on my bed. [REDACTED] and I were sexually abused at the exact same time that day."

32. My response to what LYG [REDACTED] says is that none of them were ever abused by me or my brother.

33. She continues "I don't ever recall it happening again to [REDACTED] and me at the same time. [REDACTED] abused [REDACTED] and MON [REDACTED] abused me, until [REDACTED] left and then both of them abused me. [REDACTED] and I never discussed it, but we both knew it was happening to each other."

34. My response to this is exactly the same and that none of them were ever abused by me or my brother.
35. She then says *"The abuse started with them putting their hands up my nightie and getting me to suck them, and then when I got older it was full sex. I remember sitting in the bath when I was about eleven and I thought I was pregnant because I had this wee pot belly."*
36. Again, my response to this is exactly the same, that none of them were ever abused by me or my brother.
37. LYG [REDACTED] also says *"I was sexually abused on holiday as well. I remember we went to London to visit the foster father's relative, and we went out with [REDACTED] and MON [REDACTED] one day and ended up walking around an industrial estate. It was quite isolated and MON [REDACTED] took me to one bit and [REDACTED] went off with [REDACTED]. It was a roasting hot day and [...] I was about nine at the time. It happened another time in Scarborough when I was around ten. MON [REDACTED] was constantly touching me inappropriately when we were in the swimming pool."*
38. We went to my dad's cousins house in London and we were never apart from my mum and dad as we weren't allowed out of their sight.
39. She alleges *"I remember another time I was abused by MON [REDACTED] on the stairs in the house. PBG [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were at a wedding during the day [...] it was a Friday."*
40. My mum and dad would never have went to a wedding and left us alone in the house. My aunty [REDACTED] lived down the road and she would have looked after us if they were at a wedding.
41. She continues *"I would say the sexual abuse happened at least twice a week. It happened on the upstairs landing, on the stairs, in the bath, when PBG [REDACTED] put MON [REDACTED]"*

into the bath with me, and in my room when I couldn't get out to play because it was wet outside."

42. We lived in a council house and the stairs were right next to the livingroom and we did not share a bath either.
43. Later in her statement LYG [REDACTED] says that while she was staying in a children's home she "started staying with PBG-SPO [REDACTED] again at the weekend, and MON [REDACTED] continued to sexually abuse me. [REDACTED] had moved out by then. MON [REDACTED] was older and used to go out drinking. I would be sleeping in the living room on the fold-down bed or sofa and he would come in when he got home. I could smell the alcohol before I could even see or hear him."
44. I used to stay at my girlfriend's house when I was going out to the pub or would stay out with my friends till the morning.

Other information

45. I used to take LYG [REDACTED] and her daughter home all the time and me and her pal used to babysit her kid when she went out at weekends.
46. We fostered a lot of kids over a long period of time. I still keep in contact with some and we adopted two. Every single one was treated the same.
47. After this I personally wouldn't recommend fostering to anyone.

48. 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.

MON


Signed.....

Dated..... 10/8/22.....