

**Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

Witness Statement of

FCX [REDACTED]

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is FCX [REDACTED] My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1966. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

**Life before going into care**

2. I do not have any recollection of my life before going into care but I would have been about four or five. There are conflicts between what I was told by my sisters and some of the records I have been able to access. The reasons given were either my mother's occupation did not allow her to have children in those days and had to put us in care or it was because she could not be bothered with us. I always thought the FKM/FKP [REDACTED] were my real parents until I was about twelve or thirteen. They were in their fifties when we moved in with them.
3. There was myself, my sister [REDACTED] who was two years older than me and [REDACTED]. About two years ago I learned that [REDACTED] was actually my cousin, although she was brought up as my sister. I still regard her as my sister. She is two years older than me. I thought they were twins as I grew up.

**Foster care** – FKM/FKP [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Glasgow

4. I was brought up by FKM/FKP [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] [REDACTED], Glasgow. I stayed there with my sisters [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I do not

recall any involvement with any social workers beforehand, but presume there must have been.

**Routine at** FKM/FKP – ██████████ **Glasgow**

5. The house at ██████████ was a lower villa type house. The three of us children were in one room and the FKM/FKP used the other room. There was a living room, kitchen and toilet. They had a son who was about twenty years older than us and he stayed in his own house. He did visit us at the house when we were teenagers, but this was not a regular visit.
6. FKM ██████████ was a bus driver and on retiring became a lollipop man. When he was driving he wore a dark green uniform and was always presentable for his work.
7. While we were together my sisters and I got on really well. They were very protective of me, being the young brother. ██████████ was a bit of a tomboy and she did a lot of the cleaning and cooking in the house.
8. In the evenings we were sent to our rooms very early. I would make my own amusement when we stayed there. My sisters had dolls in the room but there was nothing for me. Sometimes I played cards or dominoes with them, but I did not know how to play and am sure they cheated me all the time.
9. I think it was about 1977 when we moved house to just off ██████████ in Glasgow. This was a steel structured house. When we moved there I was given my own room and my sisters shared a room.

*Food*

10. If my sisters ██████████ and ██████████ were doing the cooking it was quite nice. Whenever my foster parents cooked it was horrible. They would put cigarette ash into the food, or they would spit in it. FKP ██████████ hands were always filthy and black and both her

and FKM regularly put their hands right into the puddings we were having just to put us off.

11. They rarely ate any meals with us during the week. When it came to Sunday lunch they made us all sit at the table for the meal. As soon as they were not looking or out of the room I would give the food to the dogs, who were always under the table waiting for scraps.

### *Schooling*

12. All three of us went to Wellshot Primary School at Tollcross in Glasgow. This was within walking distance of the house. In winter FKM would drive us to school in his Vauxhall Viva. I later stole that car and because I couldn't see over the steering wheel I ended up in a burn. That resulted in a beating from him.
13. Lunch was usually at the school. In the dining room it was either meals provided or we were given vouchers for the meal, I am not certain. I can recall we were given a carton of milk in the morning. There was a tuck shop at the school but as we were not given any money from the FKM/FKP we did not go there. When I was about thirteen or fourteen I got fifty pence pocket money.
14. Secondary school was Eastbank High School which was in Shettleston. I took a bus to the school. Sometimes I got what we called a midgie ride to school. This was an older guy we knew who had a car and he used to drop us off. I would use the bus fares to buy a single cigarette or a can of Irn Bru.
15. When I was at school I did okay but I was a bit slow. I enjoyed my football and art when I was there. I played football for the school on Saturday mornings. I was bought the cheaper rubber mould football boots so I could play. When I left school I was about fifteen maybe fifteen and a half and without any certificates.
16. When I was at secondary school staff there knew there was something going on because they made entries in my records, but apart from noting it no action was

taken. There was a prefect at school and he seemed to recognise the signs of my abuse and knew there was something wrong with me. I think he must have reported this to the school or authorities. I am not sure if it was his reporting or my later visit to the social work offices but the sexual assaults stopped not long after having spoken to him, although the physical abuse continued.

#### *Clothing*

17. The [FKM/FKP] received funds from the social work department to buy clothes but we never received any new stuff from them and they spent the money. They would get us clothes from one of the second hand shops which were always old and well worn. Sometimes I was forced to wear my sister's trousers because mine were worn out. The shoes I wore for most of the time were the black slip on rubbers which I called sandals. The only time we had a good set of clothes was for weddings and school discos. School uniform was for photograph's or parents night. They were taken off us as soon as we were home.

#### *Visits/inspections*

18. It was only when I was about twelve or thirteen that I became aware of the social work. [redacted] later confirmed that while they were with me there were no visits or check-ups by any social workers. When I was about thirteen and getting myself into trouble some social workers came to see me at the house.

#### *Birthdays/Christmas*

19. I don't recall birthdays being celebrated while I was at the [FKM/FKP] I remember one Christmas, when I was about thirteen; I got a Dinky toy and a stocking with an orange and a Mars bar in it.
20. During the rest of the year my sisters would be given presents but not me. I was treated like the black sheep in the family.

**Abuse at FKM/FKP foster home**

21. The first recollection I have of anything was being in the garden at [REDACTED] with FKM [REDACTED] I was about eight or nine. I had not done anything wrong but he had my hand jammed in the old style lawn mower and was trying to cut my fingers off. I was in agony and screaming and my fingers were black and blue. I was never taken to the doctors or anywhere else for medical treatment.
22. In the house there was a spiral stair case. FKM [REDACTED] would regularly throw me down those stairs. I would hit my head on the wall as I tumbled down. He did not need a reason, he did it because he felt like it. He also burned me with cigarettes and I still have scars all over my body where he would stub out his cigarette. He has thrown an ashtray at my head, cutting it and leaving some scars.
23. When I was about twelve or thirteen I joined the Boys Brigade. The only reason I joined was to get out of the house. I never really liked it. As part of the uniform at that time you wore a brass buckled belt. FKM [REDACTED] would use the brass buckle to hit me over the knee several times to cause as much damage as possible. He said it was to stop me playing football. I have some scars on my knees from the beatings with the belt. He always told me that I better not tell anyone about the beating. If people saw the cuts I told them I fell. [REDACTED] and her son [REDACTED] stayed above us and they must have heard my screams. People just did not want to come forward or get involved. That made me really angry.
24. I think most of the beatings from FKM [REDACTED] came from me telling him what FKP [REDACTED] was doing to me. Rather than believe me and sort it he would just beat me up. FKM [REDACTED] would beat me by using the back of his hand and the knuckles across the side of my face. He hit me so hard he would leave impressions of his knuckles. He regularly hit both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] as well, and many times I saw him pulling them by the hair. I don't think they had done anything wrong. He just looked for any

excuse to beat us. When he was hitting me sometimes [REDACTED] would jump on his back to help me but she just got battered for this.

25. My first recollection of the abuse from FKP [REDACTED] was at [REDACTED] just before we moved to the house at [REDACTED]. I was in my room and she was pulling at my private parts. [REDACTED] heard her in the room and caught her. She did not do this again until we moved house.
26. At [REDACTED] she started the abuse again. She started pushing her fingers into my rear end. She was not happy with this and progressed to shoving things into my anus, including a toilet brush and nail brush. The brush tore my skin inside and caused lots of bleeding. While doing this she was pulling on my privates. She was not happy with this and progressed to sitting on my face and she was not a clean woman and always smelled. She must have been in her sixties by that time and he was retired.
27. In my room there was a small lock quite high on the door, which I could not reach. Whenever she was abusing me in the room she would use the lock to stop anyone disturbing her. Sometimes my sisters would not be able to find me and when they came to my room they would find it locked. They suspected what she was up to and banged on the door until she opened it. He would come home from work and get told what was happening and again beat me up.
28. On at least two occasions she forced me to carry out a sex act on my sister [REDACTED] FKP [REDACTED] would sit there and watch. I had a steel framed bed and would try to hide underneath it to get away from her. This was always at times when FKM [REDACTED] was out of the house.
29. Because of what she was doing to me my underpants were always dirty. She started calling me names like Gigett, which meant someone who was dirty and smelly. She bought me a football tops because it was something I always wanted and were bought to keep my silence. FKM [REDACTED] would see me with the tops and take them off me. If I ever had new clothes FKM [REDACTED] would ask where they came from. I was too

scared to tell him she was giving them to me and I would tell him I was stealing them off washing lines. I am certain he was aware of what she was doing.

30. FKP had a drawer full of wigs in her bedroom. There were lots of times she would wear one of the wigs while abusing me. At that early age and throughout my adult life when the wigs were worn I thought it was an aunty who was also abusing me. FKP would tell me it was my aunt FKP who was doing those things to me. and confirmed later that they witnessed her wearing the wigs when I had been left alone in the room with her. It all fell into place there was no aunty, just her dressed up.
31. FKP drank vodka and was an alcoholic but she was not drunk while she abused me and she was fully aware of what she was doing. Later in life I found out from my sisters that FKM was sexually abusing them on a regular basis. I was not aware of this and never witnessed it. Most of the sexual abuse stopped when I was about fourteen years old.
32. One day I was going to Ibrox and saw who were friends of They told me she was staying with them at . I went to visit at the house and she told me the FKM/FKP were not my natural parents. I went back to the FKM/FKP and asked if this was true. I was battered again just for asking. That was when I started going out of control and was glue sniffing, drinking and smoking.
33. When I started smoking properly I got ill. It was about this time I was drinking a quarter bottle of Eldorado. FKP would send me to the Co-op in Shettleston for her drink every day. Staff there knew me and I was able to get her booze no problem. I used to try and steal money from FKM because FKP had none because she spent it all on drink.
34. Because of the abuse on which I was not aware of, she ran away when she was about fourteen and never returned. She and tried to report things to the social work but nothing was done. I did not see her until I was about fourteen or

fifteen. I learned she found some friends to stay with. The FKM/FKP were never told where she was staying.

35. [REDACTED] left about a month maybe two months later and she left a note. When I was about fourteen I managed to get in touch with her again. She was in a nunnery at [REDACTED] that time but she was not in contact with [REDACTED] and did not know where she had moved onto.
36. The relationship in general with my foster parents was a non entity. I was treated as an outcast, like a refugee sometimes. There were never any hugs or any other kind of love shown. The physical abuse from FKM went from when I was about nine through until I was fifteen and a half. The sexual abuse from FKP began when I was ten or eleven and lasted until I was fourteen.
37. I knew I had to try and get out of the house. I was trying anything for someone to notice me and I would get myself into trouble just so they would notice and take me away from it all. When I stole FKM car I was doing it for attention seeking hoping that someone would pay attention to what was happening to me, but no one did.

#### *Medical*

38. I can recall having gone to the doctors for chicken pox and prescribed calamine lotion to treat it. Because of the abuse I was having from FKP I also visited the doctors as I was having issues with my back passage. At no time did the doctor question me how the injuries occurred and never took any action if he did suspect anything.
39. There was one occasion I was taken to hospital, but I can't remember what age I was. One of my sisters was in trouble with the FKM/FKP and FKP threw a shellfish ornament at her. She ducked and I was hit in the eye with it. I was taken to the Eye Infirmary at Sauchiehall Street and wore a patch over the eye for about three to four months.



40. I was really friendly with [REDACTED] who was from a catholic family that lived nearby. They helped me and took me in even though I had been brought up Protestant. I knew [REDACTED] from the area around [REDACTED] and he went to St Andrews Catholic School. I used to climb over the rear garden fences to visit them at their house. I also fancied [REDACTED] sister [REDACTED] but I could never have her over to our house as FKM [REDACTED] was a really bad bigot. There were seven daughters in their house and [REDACTED] I got on really well with three of the daughters, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and obviously [REDACTED]
41. I told [REDACTED] mother about some of the abuse. She knew something was going on because she saw the bruises. Although she did not report any of this she did take me into their home and made sure I was ok. This was the only affection I had while I grew up. I can't remember the parent's names but they helped me for about three years.

#### **Leaving foster care from** FKM/FKP [REDACTED]

42. It was just before my sixteenth birthday when I finally ran away. I told staff at the homeless accommodation at the George Hotel, Buchanan Street that I was seventeen or eighteen. I was happy to just get out and be given somewhere safe to stay. Social work tracked me down and I was sent to an assessment centre in Barrhead, Paisley until I was old enough to leave.

#### **Life after being in care**

43. Just before I was eighteen I moved in with my sister [REDACTED] at Shettleston and I stayed there for a little while. I did not get on with her partner and had to leave to start my own life. I lost contact but later traced her in 2012 through Facebook and she told me she was living in Brighton. I went on a fourteen hour bus journey to visit her. This was not an easy journey directly after my heart operation. When I arrived it

was in the January and she had no heating in her house. She was not coping well and took her own life in [REDACTED] 2015.

44. I only met [REDACTED] recently and found her through some friends. She was using the surname [REDACTED] and I met up with her in 2015, around the time [REDACTED] died. Over the years they never had any contact with each other. [REDACTED] was always the strongest of us all and she ended up being a police officer in Manchester. She got married and moved to Florida. That did not last long as her husband was caught interfering with children. She has two daughters to someone else and now runs a shop in the Manchester area. I last spoke with her at Christmas and we still keep in touch with each other.
45. Before I left the [REDACTED] FKM/FKP I was trying to find out who my real parents were but they kept stopping me. I was battered by [REDACTED] FKM if I asked any more about my parents. When I was an adult even the social work would not tell me who my real parents were. The only time I knew anything was when I applied for my own passport and was shown a copy of my birth certificate. My mother was on it but there was no father's name. I found out her surname was [REDACTED] but she had passed away.
46. When I got my passport I saw an advert for a farm in Germany looking for students to work on a chicken farm. I moved there and worked on the farm for about two years. When I went to Germany I only had a couple of pairs of shorts, trousers, socks and pants. I just threw them into a bag and left.
47. When I came back to the UK it was because I was homesick and I had never learned the language. I was homeless for a while and ended up in another hostel. I have been a chef and a care worker for the homeless during the time I was able to work. I managed to get my SVQ 2 in social care and that helped me get a job.
48. I had a heart attack back in 2011 and four stents were inserted which stopped me from working again. When I was about twenty one the homeless people managed to get me a flat in [REDACTED], Denniston.

49. I was there for a while before ending up homeless again. I was working at [REDACTED] and became a commis chef there. I was having some issues with alcohol and ended up in Parkhead Hospital. When I was released I got a place at another homeless unit at the [REDACTED] Hotel and ended up as the cook there. I was preparing food for about one hundred and sixty tables but was getting fed up with the work load. Staff suggested I could use my experiences to help others and that was why I went into social care.

#### Reporting of abuse at [REDACTED] FKM/FKP

50. I later learned that [REDACTED] did try to pursue matters with the authorities but she was not believed and no action was taken. I was told that when [REDACTED] reported it she also reported the abuse carried out on me but she and [REDACTED] kept all that from me.
51. When I was fourteen I was at a loss and looking for somewhere safe and nobody in my life at that time was listening to me. I walked from my area to the social work office near to Burgher Street, Parkhead. I did not want to report it but I felt the choices had been taken away from me. I was told to take a seat until someone was ready. I then spoke with a Miss Prentice and told her what was happening to me. It was obvious she did not believe me in the slightest. She told me it was all in my head and told to go home. It is strange to me that after visiting the office the sexual abuse stopped but no action taken. The [REDACTED] FKM/FKP must have been told but I am not sure.
52. In 2015 I attended at Partick Police Station to report the abuse carried out by the [REDACTED] FKM/FKP. The officers there noted all the details and carried out an investigation. At the end of the enquiry I was told that the case was being closed as they were both deceased. I was given a lot of contacts for assistance from the police at that time which included Open Secret. I was made aware that my sister [REDACTED] had also spoken to them and she disclosed matters to them which they recommended I was not to be made aware of.

**Impact**

53. The main concern I have which is a direct result of the abuse is that I always feel dirty. I clean myself down below by scrubbing until I am bleeding. Only then do I know that I am clean. If I see any residue I go back and start the scrubbing process all over again.
54. With all the abuse from <sup>FKP</sup> [REDACTED] I still have nightmares to this day and can still smell her. It stops me from sleeping properly. It took me a long time to get over the <sup>FKM/FKP</sup> [REDACTED] and to realise that treating me like a refugee was not who I was.
55. I still have stomach pains and sore legs. I always think it is something sinister like cancer and get regular checks. The staff at Riverside Hospital and other people helping me all say this is a result of trauma.
56. My health has suffered as a result of my time with the <sup>FKM/FKP</sup> [REDACTED] I have mental health issues and suffer from anxiety, worrying that doctors will be thinking I am a hypochondriac. I have annual checks for my heart and at this time there are no setbacks. I use a GTN spray fairly regularly when stressed.
57. Over the years I was not able to get any help to cope with the memories until 2011 when I started with GAMH (Glasgow Association for Mental Health). I am also on Amber alert with NHS 111 because of the heart issues. At the time of [REDACTED] death I was not coping well and tried to take my own life in 2016/2017 [REDACTED] While I was in hospital I spoke with the chaplain. She listened to my history and put me in touch with people who were able to help.
58. I have received help from many organisations in relation to the abuse I received. They include Rape Crisis, Thrive, Samaritans, Breathing Space and currently with Open Secret.

59. Bringing all the memories back has caused me to struggle with life at the moment. It is like I am having to learn to grow up all over again and deal with my life.
60. Despite having the many different organisations trying to provide help and assistance, I am feeling overwhelmed with having to repeat the memories time and again. I am still trying to work out what and who is helping me the best. I am grateful for all the help and wish it was in place years ago. It may have had an effect on my adult life.
61. I am now having breathing issues when trying to sleep at night. I am waking regularly during the night and have been phoning 111 for help. They are now trying to get me a bed that raises to help with the breathing pattern.
62. At night when I awake I am regressing to some of the childhood memories. I crawl into a corner and curl up in a ball.

### **Records**

63. About two years ago around the time of [REDACTED] death I tried to get hold of my records. I got help to obtain some of my records from SDS but I hate it when they send social workers to my house. I am currently being helped by Open Secret and Sandra and Tracy from there have managed to trace some of my records.

### **Lessons to be learned**

64. I would like to see improvements made in the vetting of foster parents, including more detailed records being held by Disclosure Scotland and the use of the PVG system. I would like people to have their concerns listened to and acted upon, not made to feel it is in their mind. I would like to see lessons to be learned and acted upon from previous mistakes made. Some of my school records show issues of

concern regarding abuse and this is not shown within my social work records and I would like to see more communication between the two organisations.

**Other information**

65. 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... 21/06/18 .....