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AO.16

## CASE REVIEWS – CHILDREN IN CARE

### SOCIAL WORKER'S REPORT

Please include comments under the following headings:—

**Pen picture of the child** (including interests as well as physical and emotional attributes);

**Summary of Work done since last Review** (including frequency of visits):

**Suitability of Placement** (does it meet the child's needs? What are his views);

**School Report** (facts about attainment and potential. Also any behavioural or relationship difficulties);

**Health** (date of last medical and details of any treatment in addition to description of health);

**Contact with natural parents/current home situation/parents' views re future;**

**Parental Contributions:** Has parental assessment form been submitted to HQ.?

**Social Workers's views re future action** (indicating why any change in direction has taken place since last review/initial assessment. Also indicate why particular goals are used and link with understanding of child's behaviour).

Case Review to be held at Florence Booth Children's Home on 21st January 1983

NAME	ADDRESS IN CARE	D.O.B.
GAVIN FERGUSON	Florence Booth Children's Home, Dundee.	14.12.75.
MARJORY FERGUSON	Florence Booth Children's Home, Dundee	10.5.77.

The above-named children's situation was last reviewed within the Department on 28th May 1982 and at a Children's Hearing on 9th July 1982 (at the request of the parents), [REDACTED]. Marjory lived with her natural father from approximately that time until 8th January 1982 when a Hearing Order placed her with Gavin.

GAVIN (7) is a healthy, attractive child. Emotionally he has coped reasonably well with the upsets in his life.

MARJORY (5) is also an attractive child. Her general health is good but she has had ear trouble creating speech problems - much improved by an operation some time ago.

#### SUMMARY OF Work

I should perhaps mention that I had a period of sick leave from beginning of August to end of October.

I have contact with the family on a regular basis. Working in conjunction with Florence Booth we have carefully monitored the contact with the parents over the period. With the parents we have tried to help them develop insight into the developmental needs of the children - to this end meetings have taken place in Florence Booth with residential staff, the parents and myself. Florence Booth continue to meet the needs of the children at this stage and work well with the parents. Both children appear well settled and happy in the setting.

#### SCHOOL.

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## SCHOOL

Recent contact with Mr. Jack, Headmaster of Rockwell Primary School indicated that both children have made a good adjustment to school and to date there has been no indication of disturbance from the school's viewpoint. He does comment that Marjory is emerging as the more dominant personality.

## PARENTIAL SITUATION.

Mr. & Mrs. Ferguson, Dianne and Sonia all continue to live in Beechwood, and Mr. Ferguson is still unemployed.

Both parents - Mr. Ferguson in particular, continually state their desire to have the children returned to them. At times Mr. Ferguson becomes frustrated and verbally aggressive over this issue. During these times I have continued to re-affirm the reasons why the children are in care and the fact that the home has not changed sufficiently to allow them to return.

Mr. Wallace having had no contact with the children in over a year has recently expressed a desire to renew contact.

## Social Worker's Views re Future.

Given the parents' desire to have the children home a lot of my work has been designed to test out their capabilities in this direction.

At times there appears to have been positive movement with Mr. Ferguson accepting that a change in his attitude is necessary before any consideration could be given to this request. Unfortunately his frustrations frequently get the better of him.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that he has made a more determined effort in relation to Gavin, than to Marjory and this is reflected in the children's response to visits home.

It is clear that it will not be possible for the children to return home in the near future and the issue centres on Mr. Ferguson's ability to satisfactorily adjust his attitude, and whether he should be allowed more time to work on this.

Signed P. D. Blair per Margaret Blair  
(Social Worker)

Date 20th January, 1983

## CASE REVIEWS

### Summary of Review Meeting and Recommendations for the Future

Date of Review..... Florence Booth House 21.1.83 .....

Name	Present Address	D.O.B.
Gavin FERGUSON	Florence Booth Children's Home	14.12.75
Marjorie FERGUSON	Florence Booth Children's Home	10.5.77

#### Participants:

Ms. M. Black, Social Worker  
Mr. H. Gaston, Senior Social Worker  
Mr. D. Middleton, Area Controller  
Miss A. Gordon, Social Worker  
Miss E. Macfarlane, Health Visitor  
Mr. J. Fisher, Superintendent Florence Booth House  
Mrs. J. Fisher, Florence Booth House  
Mr. A. Nicoll, Asst. Area Controller (Chairman)

Summary of Discussion + Goals/Tasks for the Future (Goals to be listed separately)

The mother of the children, Mrs. Ferguson, and her husband, the children's stepfather, joined the meeting for the latter part of the discussion.

Copies of AO16 prepared by Ms. Black was circulated to members of the meeting.

The discussion was focussed almost entirely on the question of the possibility of the children returning home, and when this might happen. It was recognised that Mr. Ferguson seemed to have a good relationship with Gavin, and Gavin was saying that he wanted to go home. In November, 1982 Mr. Ferguson had said he had strong feelings of animosity towards Marjory, and Marjory, at times seemed to deliberately do naughty things in order not to be allowed to go home. The possibility of Gavin eventually going home, and Marjory staying in care was then discussed, as were the consequences which might ensue for both children if such a separation took place. The meeting was informed that Mr. Wallace, the children's father, had been in the Crichton Street Office and was told that Ms. Black would interview him if he waited. He did not wait.

When Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson joined the meeting, they were asked how they felt about their relationship with the children. Mr. Ferguson said that he and Gavin got on well together, and that he would willingly have Gavin home. He had tried, he said, to get to know Marjory, and she seemed to make a point of doing things that would annoy him. He was not sure, he said, if he would ever reach the stage of having Marjory home. Mrs. Ferguson said she got on well with both children and both Louise and Dianne looked forward to having Gavin and Marjory home.

The possibility that Gavin would go home; and that Marjory might stay in care, was broached with Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson. Mr. Ferguson said he did not want Marjory to/

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to be fostered, but seemed to recognise that, if she did not return to his home, then she could not stay in a Children's Home indefinitely.

Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson were told that the meeting had been an exploratory one, and that, having heard all that had been said, they should talk over the matter together. A further meeting, was arranged to take place at Florence Booth House on 25.2.83 at 9.30 a.m., and ~~that~~ Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson were asked to attend at 10 a.m.

Mr. A.J. Nicoll  
Asst. Area Controller

Copies to:-

Signed .....

Signed .....

(Reviewing Consultant)

Date .....

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Feedback re Resources to Field Work Director via Area Controller

## CASE REVIEWS – CHILDREN IN CARE

### SOCIAL WORKER'S REPORT

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Parental Contributions: Has parental assessment form been submitted to HQ?

Social Workers' views re future action (indicating why any change in direction has taken place since last review/initial assessment. Also indicate why particular goals are used and link with understanding of child's behaviour).

NAME

ADDRESS IN CARE

D.O.B.

Gavin Ferguson

Florence Booth House

Mayjory Ferguson

Florence Booth House.

The last case review for these children was held on 21.1.83. Since that time both children have spent more time with their family. Initially the children spent a week night and a weekend night at home. In general terms this arrangement worked out well and two weeks ago the arrangement was extended to Wed.-Thurs. overnights and Sat.-Mon. overnights. We felt this should encourage Mr & Mrs Ferguson to be involved in taking the children to and from school and afford more opportunity for relationships to develop - particularly between Mr Ferguson and Mayjory. Mrs McKenzie, Family Helper has recently been introduced to the family so they have had several changes in a short space of time. Mayjory appears much more relaxed about some visits and there are indications of an improvement in her relationship with Mr Ferguson. Gavin continues to enjoy his time at home and he seems confident that he will eventually be at home full time.

School

at Parkwell Primary tells me that Gavin has quite

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Margy's attitude at school is the same as always. She is happy and there has been no noticeable change since home visits resumed. Both children are well turned out for school and are pleased when either Mr or Mrs Ferguson collect them from school.

There are still times when Margy annoys Mr Ferguson e.g. on the mornings he is bad tempered, Margy is slow in getting organised for school, so Mrs Ferguson always gets the children off. We have suggested that he should attempt to take part in the morning routine at times to try to develop patience with her.

Overall Mrs Fisher and I feel that there has been definite improvements, Mrs McKenzie's introduction to the situation has been an added benefit. We would hope to continue with the current plan for increased involvement given that Margy and Gair are making it clear that they are enjoying increased contact with Mr & Mrs Ferguson, Dianne and Sonia.

Signed Margaret Black  
(Social Worker)

Date 24th Feb 1983

## CASE REVIEWS

### Summary of Review Meeting and Recommendations for the Future

Date of Review.....24.2.83.....

Name	Present Address	D.O.B.
Gavin FERGUSON	Florence Booth House	14.12.75
Marjory FERGUSON	Florence Booth House	10.5.77

Participants: Ms. M. Black, Social Worker  
Miss A. Gordon, Social Worker  
Mrs. J. McKenzie, Family Helper  
Mr. D. Middleton, Area Controller  
Mrs. J. Fisher, Florence Booth House  
Miss E. Macfarlane, Health Visitor  
Mr. A. Nicoll, Asst. Area Controller

The mother of the children, Mrs. Ferguson, and her husband Mr. Ferguson joined the meeting for the latter part of the discussion.

#### Summary of Discussion + Goals/Tasks for the Future (Goals to be listed separately)

Copies of AO. 16 prepared by Ms. Black were circulated to members of the meeting.

Since the preparation of her report, Ms. Black said she had become aware that a young man, [REDACTED] was lodging in the Ferguson household, and was occupying a bedroom in the house. This had implications for Marjory and Gavin, who were now having to sleep in the same bedroom as Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson. Ms. Black said that Mr. Ferguson now had a pool table (ostensibly for Gavin) and she was concerned about the number of people who congregated in the house, in the evenings, to play pool.

In the discussion that followed, there seemed to be agreement that the relationship between Mr. Ferguson and Marjory had improved and Marjory was asking about going home. There was still cause for concern. Mr. Ferguson seemed, possibly because of his own life experience, to operate at extremes, and this made it difficult for him to take a sensible, or middle way on situations e.g. because fire regulations say doors should be left shut, he does not feel he can leave doors ajar so that the children will go to sleep more easily knowing they can get to their parents.

When Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson joined the meeting, they were asked how they felt about the situation with the children. Both Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson felt there had been an improvement, particularly in regard to Marjory, and Mr. Ferguson said he would take the children home now, if given permission to do so.

Mr. Ferguson gave an account of the circumstances which resulted in [REDACTED] coming to live in the house, and the point was put to him that he would have to get his priorities right—Viz. Gavin and Marjory could not be allowed home permanently as long as there was a lodger there. Mr. Ferguson said [REDACTED] would not be staying long, and some suggestions were made to Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson as to how they might reorganise the children's sleeping arrangements, when [REDACTED] left. Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson were told that it was the Department's view that visiting arrangements would continue, as before, and that, if all was going well, the children/

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children would have a holiday at home at Easter. A further review would take place around about the 3rd week in April, at Florence Booth House and Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson agreed with these arrangements.

Mr. A. Nicoll  
Asst. Area Controller

AJN/LDM  
28th February, 1983

Copies to:-

Signed .....

Signed .....

*A. Nicoll*  
(Reviewing Consultant)

Date ..... 28/2/83 .....

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Feedback re Resources to Field Work Director via Area Controller

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AO.16

## CASE REVIEWS – CHILDREN IN CARE

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Parental Contributions: Has parental assessment form been submitted to HQ.?

Social Workers' views re future action (indicating why any change in direction has taken place since last review/initial assessment. Also indicate why particular goals are used and link with understanding of child's behaviour).

NAME	ADDRESS IN CARE	D.O.B.
Gavin Ferguson	Florence Booth House	14.12.75
Marjory Ferguson	Florence Booth House	10.5.77

The above children's situation was last reviewed on 24.2.1983.

The children have continued to go home on a regular basis and spend Thursday - Monday of each week in their parents' care. In general the indications are that they look forward to spending time at home - Marjory in particular seems to be more relaxed about the visits. There have been small difficulties from time to time and despite his usually rigid attitude Mr Ferguson has been able to seek advice either from Mrs Fisher, or Mrs McKenzie (family helper), or myself. Mrs McKenzie continues to visit fairly regularly.

A recent area of concern was that following the departure of [redacted] as their lodger, a woman called [redacted] and her son moved into the Ferguson home. Eventually Mrs Fisher and I were able to impress on Mr & Mrs Ferguson that although [redacted] had no [redacted]

b) her presence prevented the children having full use of available space.

and c) Neither Dianne + Sonia or Gair + Majing were experiencing a stable situation at home.

We made it clear that visits home would not be increased in these circumstances and they then asked her to move back to her own family.

Mr + Mrs Ferguson have applied to the Housing Department for a larger house with a garden. We have sent a letter in support of their application but there has been no response to date.

It is clear that Mr + Mrs Ferguson wish to increase the size of their family and Mrs Ferguson recently had a pregnancy test but this was negative. However given her age etc. it seems likely that she will become pregnant in the near future. The Fergusons say the children all want a baby but I think Mr + Mrs Ferguson have encouraged the children in this idea.

Dianne now attends Benefield Road Nursery and derives great enjoyment from the experience.

[REDACTED SECTION]

Despite some setbacks and Mr + Mrs Ferguson's limitations there has been some progress. The next hearing remains on 24.6.83 and Mrs Fisher and I would like to have the children spend a full week at home before then. All being well we would hope they could spend the summer holidays at home. That would obviously be a pretty testing time for the family and would help them and us to be clearer about their ability to cope full time with the children.

Mr Wallace, natural father called at the office the day before Majing's birthday asking to visit the children. He was discouraged from doing so and has not phoned or called at the office again - not has he contacted Florence Ruth House.

Signed Mgr. Black (Social Worker)

Date 26.5.83.

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Review - 20 May 1963

Gavin Ferguson (d/b 14.12.75), Florence Booth House  
Marjory Ferguson (d/b 10.5.77), Florence Booth House.

Participants: Ms. M. Black, Social Worker  
Mrs. Fisher, Florence Booth House  
Mrs. MacFarlane, Health Visitor  
Mr. H. G. Ston, Senior Social Worker  
Mr. A. Nicoll, Assistant Area Controller

A.G.16 report prepared for the review by Ms. Black.

Mrs. Fisher said that both Marjory and Gavin look forward to going home and leave some of their clothes there. After discussions of the matter, it was felt that Ms. Black's recommendations for a trial period of one week at home, before the next children's panel, should go ahead and the following arrangements were made.

- (1) Gavin and Marjory to go home on Thursday 2 June and will return to Florence Booth House on Monday 13 June.
- (2) Ms. Black will inform Department of Health & Social Security so that a financial payment, while the children are at home, can be made.
- (3) If trial period is successful, a recommendation will be made to the Children's Panel that the children be allowed home on a trial basis. The panel would be asked to make a 44 (1)(b) Order naming Florence Booth House and stating that the Social Work Department would have discretion to allow the children home on trial.
- (4) Two beds would be reserved in Florence Booth House for Gavin and Marjory during the trial period.
- (5) Ms. Black will arrange another Children's Panel Review after the end of the school holiday period.

Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson attended the last part of the review and the recommendations that will be made to the Children's Panel were carefully explained to them. Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson said they were in agreement with the recommendations and said they would be ready to consult Mrs. Fisher in times of difficulty with the children.

Mr. A. Nicoll  
Assistant Area Controller

30 May 1963  
AN/18

Deputy Director of Social Work  
Mr. S. J. Moxley



Tayside Regional Council

Social Work Department  
Dundee Division

Area 1, 22 Crichton Street,  
DUNDEE DD1 3AW. Tel. 23281

### FORM OF REPORT

- |                                 |                      |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Home Background              | 2. Settlement        |
| 3. Progress                     | 4. Final             |
| 5. Breakdown                    | 6. Deferred Sentence |
| 7. Means                        | 8. Supplementary     |
| 9. <u>48(3) Annual Review</u> * |                      |

If phoning or calling please ask for:

Ms. Black - Ext. 3415

your ref 3685/5575

our ref MB/IS

date 22 June 1983

Dundee Children's Hearing on Friday 24 June 1983 at 2.55 p.m.

### REPORT:

on

Gavin FERGUSON (d/b 14.12.75)

Marjory FERGUSON (d/b 10.5.77)

Home Address: 14 Dronley Place, Dundee

Present Address: c/o Florence Booth House, Clement Park, Dundee

The above named children's supervision orders were last reviewed at a Hearing on 9.7.82 when the orders were continued without variation. Unfortunately I had a further period of sick leave shortly after this Hearing and was unable to resume work with the family until the end of October.

The family continue to live in Beechwood although Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson are very keen to move and would like a larger house, preferably with a garden. Despite their efforts it seems unlikely that they will be rehoused in the foreseeable future and frustration leads them to consider moving to Dunfermline where Mr. Ferguson has a large extended family. On balance, however, I think they will remain in Dundee meantime. Dianne now attends Harefield Nursery. She enjoys this experience and is obviously benefitting from her involvement with other children.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson still see Gavin and Marjory's return to the home as their aim and they have co-operated well with Social Work Department and Florence Booth House. Since the last Hearing we have had several meetings at the Children's Home attended by Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson, Mrs. Fisher and myself to review progress. There have been three departmental reviews at each of which Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson were involved in the final stage of the meeting.

Gavin and Marjory both continue to make progress in the Children's Home and as can be seen from reports Marjory has made a good start to school and Gavin is well integrated and happy at school. At home the main area of concern is around Mr. Ferguson's/

Ferguson's relationship with Marjory, about which he appears to be very honest. Initially Marjory was reluctant to participate in visits home with her brother, inventing various aches and pains to avoid visits. She also got involved in petty stealing for a short time. The family found this period extremely frustrating but worked at trying to understand her behaviour and her anxiety about going home. I feel that this was largely due to her sensitivity to Mr. Ferguson's tensions causing her to feel anxious. With increased contact they are becoming more relaxed with each other, and although there are still times when he feels frustrated by aspects of her behaviour the overall picture is much healthier. Marjory looks forward to her time at home and seems much more involved with her family. Gavin continues to enjoy his periods at home and is very much part of the family.

The recent concerning aspect was that the Ferguson's had two lodgers, one after the other. Both these people had their own problems and Mrs. Fisher and I made it clear to Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson that the children should be coming home to a stable situation and that their priority should be the needs of their own family. Fortunately they eventually accepted this advice and the lodger moved out. I should also mention that I received a telephone call last November complaining about Mr. Ferguson's attitude towards Marjory. The Ferguson's were very angry about this but it does highlight the difficulties of a family trying to get over the stigma of one parent being in prison for child abuse.

Gradually we have built up the contact with home and the children now spend weekends and a week night at home. This provides the opportunity for them to go to school from home two mornings each week and demonstrates the Ferguson's ability to cope with this routine and the normal pressures which families have to handle. Recently the children spent a full week at home and there were no major problems.

Mrs. McKenzie, Family Helper, continues to visit the family regularly and it is anticipated that her involvement will continue in a supportive capacity. She is well accepted by the family.

Mr. Wallace, the children's natural father has no contact with the children. He has called at Social Work Department twice this year but has not been prepared to make an appointment to see me.

#### Conclusion:

Overall some improvement has taken place in this family situation and the Ferguson's seek help as problems arise. When Mr. Ferguson has been particularly annoyed with either Gavin or Marjory he has taken the opportunity to discuss this with Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. McKenzie or myself in an attempt to understand the behaviour and his own reactions to it. There remain concerns about their ability to fully integrate Marjory into the family but provided they are prepared to work with the difficulties we must hope for a successful outcome. I feel that Mr. Ferguson would be honest if he felt his relationship was not working out with Marjory. Gavin on the other hand seems very secure in his place in the family and wants to return to them.

I feel we are now at the stage where the children should return home on a trial basis. Both children have been well prepared through the increased contact with their parents and sisters. However, I feel that it would be necessary to retain the places in Florence Booth House for a period as a safeguard for the family. The Ferguson's themselves feel that this is a good idea.

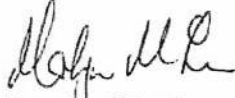
I/

Social Work Department

-3-

Conclusion: (contd.)

I would therefore request that the Panel members consider allowing the children to return home on a trial basis, while retaining the places in Florence Booth House. If this suggestion is accepted I would anticipate a further review after the school holidays.



HP Ms. M. Black  
Social Worker

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Panel  
MRS Simpson chair  
MR Boy  
MRS Sordal

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AO.16

## CASE REVIEWS – CHILDREN IN CARE

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NAME	ADDRESS IN CARE	D.O.B.
FERGUSON MARJORY	Florence Booth Children's Home.	14.12.75.
AND GAVIN		10.5.77.

The above-named children's situation was last formally reviewed on 27.5.83 and there has been a Children's Hearing on 24.6.83. The main theme of the departmental review and the Hearing Review focussed on Gavin and Marjory returning home for a trial period and agreement was reached that this would be in the best interests of the children. At the same time the 44 (1)(b) Orders would remain in force and Florence Booth retain the children's places.

The children spent the school holidays at home and during this time the family had a caravan holiday in St. Andrews. Prior to the holiday Marjory had damaged a finger (caught in a door) and while on holiday tripped in the caravan and had a bruised and swollen face. This necessitated several trips to the local cottage hospital but there was nothing to suggest N.A.I.

Towards the latter part of the holidays it was becoming clear that tension was building up e.g. following an incident when Marjory and Dianne had gone into a single man's house she was sent to bed - and told she would not get out to play again until school resumed. While his intention was to get across to Marjory that she should not go with strangers Mr. Ferguson totally over reacted and consequently had to back down. Over the holiday period various members of the family went fruit picking. Gavin of course was a good picker who earned a lot of money while Marjory was clearly not interested. This kind of behaviour is seen by Mr. Ferguson as intended 'to get at him'.

Following discussion with Mrs. Fisher we put it to Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson that the children should return to Florence Booth Home for a period and this was easily accepted by the Fergusons. After several weeks of visiting as before the children returned home full-time on 1st September. At this time the Fergusons felt some of the pressure was because they felt constantly under scrutiny and therefore ill at ease with the situation.

During/

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During September - October the complaints - again about Marjory were concerning her getting up in the night and eating large amounts of sugar. Following information from a staff member of Florence Booth Home, I also had reason to check Marjory's bed and found that she had a pillow (no slip) and a sleeping bag. Gavin and the others had had a comfortably made up double bed. I made it clear that this was not acceptable and Mr. Ferguson's aggressive reaction consisted of complaining about [redacted] bedwetting. Again I made it clear that this should not affect Marjory's bed. Gavin and Marjory are put to bed on return from school if they have been naughty. At home earlier and on a recent visit I used this as a reason to see Marjory in her bedroom. Her bedding arrangements were as before and the room had no light bulb. According to the Fergusons having a light would mean Marjory tearing the wallpaper etc. The children are not allowed books or games to bed with them - this would not constitute punishment for bad behaviour according to Mr. Ferguson. I said I was not happy with this arrangement and that it was cruel to leave a child in a dark bedroom from 5 p.m. until the next morning. Since last week Gavin and Marjory share a room and in the circumstances this is preferable. Both Ms. McKenzie and myself have tried to get across to the parents that putting children to bed a bit earlier than usual is sufficient punishment, and it is not a good idea to put them to bed and then get them up for tea.

It is clear that in some respects Mr. Ferguson's rigidity continues. On the other hand Ms. McKenzie and I have seen him behave in quite a responsive way with Marjory e.g. helping her with homework. They have been on an outing to the swimming baths with Ms. McKenzie and in this situation Mr. Ferguson played well with both children.

Recently I have sensed some dissatisfaction within the Fergusons' marital situation. Certainly they have been trying for another baby and perhaps are annoyed that she is not yet pregnant. Perhaps it is simply that they are together all day and he is now inclined to go out to visit friends later in the evening - returning home at 3 - 4 a.m. Mr. Ferguson has complained about Mrs. Ferguson's standard of housekeeping. Equally he has made it clear that their relationship is their business and refuses to discuss it.

I feel there are still some fairly real risks in this situation. Mr. Ferguson continues to respond to situations in an aggressive manner - as he did recently when someone wrote some unpleasant things about him on the wall outside their flat. However I feel we must weigh up what is best for the children meantime. I think it is obvious that Gavin is more accepted by Mr. Ferguson than Marjory is ever likely to be.

At school both children are, in their attitude etc. much as they were in Florence Booth Home. The main notable change is that their standard of hygiene and dress has dropped a little. However as Mr. Jack, Rockwell Primary commented, 'they do not stand out among the Beechwood children'.

It is now time to request a Hearing to review progress with these children. The main topic for discussion today I feel should be around Mr. Ferguson's attitude to Marjory, in particular. Are the risks sufficient to warrant her return to Florence Booth House or should the children continue at home with regular visits from Ms. McKenzie and myself? The concerns about Mr. Ferguson's aggressive outbursts apply to all the children but no doubt Marjory would be the focus for any outburst. Diane continues to enjoy her experience at nursery and hopefully a place will become available for Sonia in the near future.

The information in this report has been compiled by Ms. McKenzie and myself.

Signed Margaret Blake  
(Social Worker)

Date 16.11.83.



Tayside Regional Council

**Social Work Department  
Dundee Division**

Area 1, 22 Crichton Street,  
DUNDEE DD1 3AW. Tel. 23281

**FORM OF REPORT**

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Home Background | 2. Settlement        |
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| 7. Means           | 8. Supplementary     |
| 9. N.A.I. *        |                      |

If phoning or calling please ask for:  
Ms. Black - Ext. 3415

your ref  
our ref ME/IS

date 23 November 1983

**REPORT:**

on

Ferguson Family, 14 Dronley Place, Beechwood, Dundee

Gavin and Marjory continue to be subjects of 44 (1)(b) Orders through the Children's Hearing system. They have been spending considerable periods at home although officially resident in Florence Booth Children's Home. At the last Children's Hearing in June it was agreed that a trial period at home could start from the summer holidays. Unfortunately this has not worked out successfully and following a departmental review on 16.11.83 the children returned to the Children's Home.

Recently it has been apparent that marital difficulties are bringing stress to the situation and this increases the risk factors for the children. Mr. Ferguson's relationship with Marjory jnr., is still not at an acceptable level. Dianne attends Harefield Nursery and thoroughly enjoys the experience.

Nursery. Hopefully a place will become available for Sonia in the near future.

The children's names should certainly remain on the register.

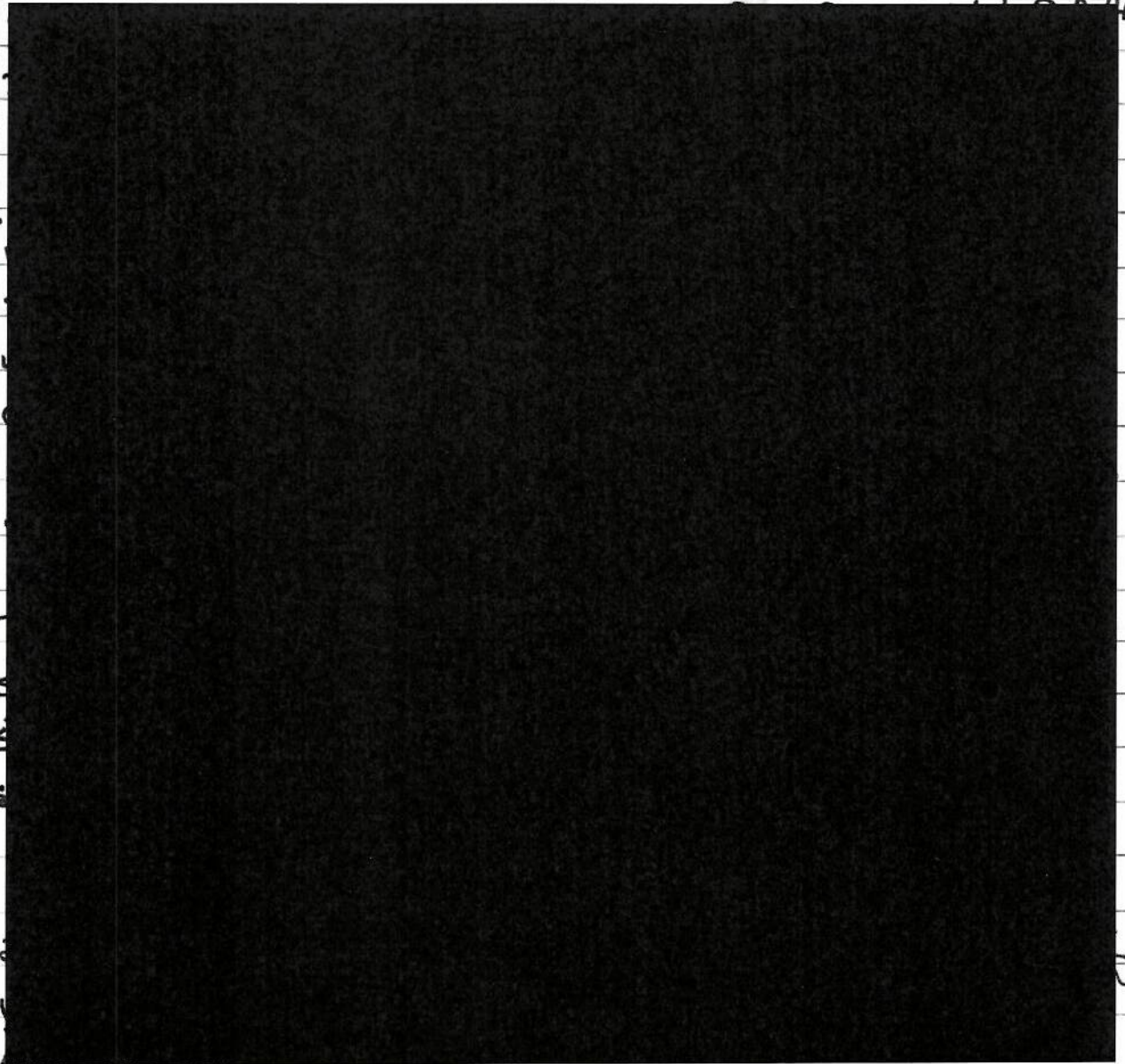
*Margaret Black*

Ms. M. Black  
Social Worker

CLIENTS NAME: Ferguson

SHEET No. \_\_\_\_\_

5<sup>th</sup> Jan Phoned Miss McFarlane HV.



6<sup>th</sup> Jan

Later visited Ferguson's. Had a long discussion with her about my views of attitudes etc. MEF concerned that lack of progress with Maj, may prevent Gair getting home. Said main aim had always been to keep chd. together.

Discussed part about Gair's attitude so Maj has recently changed - tries to get her into trouble with staff - tells tales. Transpired that MEF. has told Gair that Maj is preventing him getting home - which perhaps is related to the change in attitude.

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HQ 4

CLIENTS NAME: Ferguson

SHEET No. \_\_\_\_\_

- 7<sup>th</sup> Jan. Miss McFarlane - [REDACTED]  
Advised Dr Neulle will visit tomorrow.  
Contacted F.B.W. to cancel visit.
- 10<sup>th</sup> Jan. Ferguson's lad called on Sat. for children - were told visit cancelled. Gairn slightly upset - Maj. not at all.
- 11<sup>th</sup> Jan. Contacted Mr Jack, Rockwell P. School - to see him Thursday p.m.
- 12<sup>th</sup> Jan. Mr & Mrs F. to office. Ret'd. £8 which they'd borrowed.  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]. Discussed again reunion - Mr F. v. upright about possible outcome which we've discussed.
- 13<sup>th</sup> Jan. Mr Wallace to office - completely out of the blue. Hoping to see me to arrange two fares for visiting U.K. He was told I'd be available Mon. p.m. Said he may call then.  
Later to Rockwell P. Mr Jack pleased with the progress of both children. Gairn w. behaved - no bullying - slight problem at F.B.W. Maj. more bossy - more dominant personality - won't be sat on.  
Visit to Ferguson's. long discussion re attitudes to children's behaviour.  
Phoned Miss McF. to check again on next.

CLIENTS NAME:

Y Ferguson Family

SHEET No. \_\_\_\_\_

M<sup>r</sup> 2-83

Mrs Ferguson was collecting Gavin & Marjory from school when I made a home visit. Mr. Ferguson was friendly and cheerful and made me feel welcome. Sonia was sleeping but Diane was in the livingroom and began to chat non stop to me. The rash which she has on her back, buttocks and legs although no worse did not appear any better.

Once Mrs Ferguson came home with the children Mr. Ferguson adopted what appeared to be a slightly more rigid tone when speaking to all three children. Gavin & Marjory were reminded to change from their school clothes into play things. While all the children settled down with pens & colouring books Mr. Ferguson proceeded to tell me a great deal about his past, why he felt that this or that had happened and also a little about his feelings for Gavin and Marjory, especially Marjory and Marjory's natural father. The family album was brought out and Mr Ferguson took pride in showing me the childrens photographs all that is, until at the end we came to photographs of Marjory. At this he said "That's Marjory" and then moved back to the far side of the room. The rest of my visit was filled up with being shown the pool table and Gavin's miniature sticks. Mr. Ferguson spoke away with all the children, firmly but with no preference to any one.

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CLIENTS NAME: Fergusons

SHEET No. \_\_\_\_\_

25.2.83

My visit this afternoon went well Gavin and Marjory came home from school and settled down fine. Mr Ferguson tends to dominate the conversation with stories about his past or about things which do not directly relate to Marjory and Gavin. Mrs Ferguson chats away but does not mention Gavin & Marjory a great deal.

Mr Ferguson told me about one incident which happened on Sunday. He had told Marjory and Gavin he would take them out for a while in the afternoon. While the children were putting on their coats Mr Ferguson noticed that a button on Marjory's coat was loose and asked her to take it off. Marjory apparently just stood and looked at him. Twice more Mr Ferguson asked her to take off her coat but Marjory just stood. Eventually Mr Ferguson had to take off her coat. Talking to Marjory about it I got the impression that she thought that she was going to be left at home.

3.83

Diane has started nursery. She was full of chit-chat, telling me all about her day. Mrs Ferguson was very happy and relaxed pleased about how Diane's day had gone and the fact that she had more time to spend with Sonia. Gavin & Marjory were playing about quite happily Gavin at the snooker table and Marjory with Diane and a friend's baby. Mr Ferguson talked about how strictly he brought up all the children. From that we talked about how much affection he showed the children and also how he should give praise to the children as well as telling off.

CLIENTS NAME: Ferguson

SHEET No. \_\_\_\_\_

28.3.83

Mr & Mrs Ferguson's home is full of visitors these days. Apparently quite a few of his relatives from Dunfermline are taking it in turn to visit them.

Mr Ferguson feels he must join in with the rest of his family when they are drinking. This seems to have had an adverse effect on Marjory & Gavin. After having this matter pointed out to Mr Ferguson, he agreed that it would be better if he waited until either the children were in bed or returned to Florence Booth to join his family drinking.

Gavin & Marjory were out playing for quite a while this evening. If Marjory needed anything like a glove coat etc it was Mr Ferguson that she turned to.

Mrs & Mrs Ferguson and I talked about whether it was a good idea to give Gavin the responsibility of looking after his sisters when they were out playing. They are all in favour of giving Gavin this responsibility. I pointed out that he is still very young himself. But they disagree.

4.4.83

When I visited the Ferguson family to-day the children were in the bedroom playing. Although it has not said I gathered Mr Ferguson wanted peace & quiet to watch the film on television. Mr Ferguson talked about how he thought Florence Booth was making a mess out of Gavin by telling him not to fight. This made Mr Ferguson very angry as he thinks Gavin ought to be able to stand up for himself in Bechwood.

Both Mr & Mrs Ferguson felt that at school Gavin & Marjory were being given special attention by their teachers because they lived in a "home". e.g.

# CLIENT COPY

being given more Easter eggs than all the other children. I suggested that they have a word with Mr. Jack. As the children were all in the bedroom I joined them there for a while. Twice Mr. Ferguson <sup>indicated that he</sup> came into the bedroom and by his tone of voice, was not pleased about me being with the children. He obviously resented the attention being given to the children without him being included.

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1144

CLIENTS NAME: FERGUSON.

SHEET No. \_\_\_\_\_

June - August 83.

Summer holidays started off reasonably well - trial period at home for Gavin & Marjory. Whole family spent 10 days at St Andrews on a caravan holiday. During this time Marjory injured her face getting up during the night to go to the toilet - checked with the hospital in StA. Indicated no grounds to be concerned re N.S.I.

Both Mr & Mrs F. spent time at the berry picking - either one or the other going and taking Gavin & Marjory with them. Gavin obviously enjoyed the experience and worked well at the berries. Marjory clearly did not want to pick berries - hardly surprising but this greatly irritated Mr Ferguson and made him lose his temper with her.

The pressure of having all the children together began to tell on the Fergusons and Marjory was a constant source of irritation to him. He would tend to overreact eg. if she was naughty he would whine, let her do her house and say she wouldn't be getting out again for the rest of the holiday and then have to have down because this is too complex to carry out and inevitably having Marjory under his feet the whole time increases the tension in the situation.

Judy McKenzie family help has continued to visit regularly - usually on a Monday evening with the specific intention of observing the interactions between family members.

Sadly the children had to return to F.B.H. although both accepted the return without much difficulty.

CLIENTS NAME: FERGUSON Family

SHEET No. \_\_\_\_\_

- 11<sup>th</sup> July Viewed caravan with Mr & Mrs Ferguson for their holiday at St Andrews. Both pleased with caravan & tent.
- 12<sup>th</sup> July Finalised arrangements re transport etc.
- 13<sup>th</sup> July Mr & Mrs Ferguson, Gavin, Majory & Sonia to office - Dianne at nursery (they have advised nursery of Dianne's holiday). Majory has a bandaged finger. Apparently she caught her finger in a door - while Mr & Mrs F. were at the caravan on Monday evening. She seemed fine otherwise and Mrs Ferguson had sensibly take her to DRI. on Tuesday a.m. when the finger seemed swollen. I later heard from Mary Orr, Ayr, Ch. Reg. of this - no suspicions for hospital. All children had new sandals, hats etc for their holiday, and whole family quite excited.
- 14<sup>th</sup> July Collected Mr & Mrs Ferguson, 4 children & luggage & transported to Kirkell Braes Caravan Park, St Andrews. All well.
- 16<sup>th</sup> July Met Mrs Ferguson with Majory & Sonia out shopping in SVA. Mr Ferguson at beach with the other 2 children. Majory & Sonia looked tanned & healthy. All well.
- Later phone call at home (tele. no. given out by new staff member at C.H!!) Tene been hit by a cow altho still usable.
- 19<sup>th</sup> July Called this am to give some clothes & £10 direct aid (to be repaid). Mr Ferguson asked his wife to bring Majory out of the caravan to see me (8.15am) so all children still getting up. Majory's face (left side) was swollen and evidence of a cut - some bleeding. Said she'd got up to go to the toilet during the night.

- The whole family were sleeping in the caravan, and tripped while trying to find her dressing gown. She did not seem distressed or in any way frightened. Mrs Ferguson said it was her intention to take her to the cottage hosp. this am.

Said this would be a good idea particularly to avoid any damage inside m.b.t.h. Did not pick up any particular tensions altho' caravan obviously crowded.

Tue. evening Called with ambulance tent. Mary in head bed to help with her mother and been given a morphine - she's to go back on Friday am. Earlier in the day I'd discussed the situation with Mr Gordon S.S.W. re ? N.A.I. and said I felt it probably was an accident but I'd prefer to check with hospital. Phoned Mary Orr who said there is no particular scheme for getting info. from ambulance health board but I should get in touch with hospital myself. Phoned SRA. Mem. hosp. Dr Caithness was on duty a.m. - phoned his surgery to find he would be out on visits for rest of day.

wed 20th July Phoned Dr Caithness, surgery - rather busy so said I'd ring back on 12 when he'll be free. Phoned again. Dr Caithness helpful but said he would not be sure how Mary had sustained the injury - abrasion + she bit her lip in the process. I also mentioned finger - again he said their explanation sounded reasonable. said he now had some doubt given what I was saying - I had explained that Mary is Mr F's step-daughter, [redacted] [redacted], child on register and Mary & Mr F. have a rather strained relationship. said I would ring him again on Friday after he sees Mary on again.

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Y  
Tergusons.

29/1/83

H/V to the Ferguson family. Mrs Ferguson was at home with all the children. They were all in bed. Marjory + Dianne because they had went into someone elses house without their parents permission, and the fact that to the girls atleast, the person had been a strange man. Mr. Ferguson took Marjory along to Mrs Fisher at Florence Booth and asked her to explain to Marjory the reasons why children ought never to talk to, never mind go into, the homes of strangers. Afterwards Mrs Ferguson had found all the children playing in the bathroom. Sonia was eating the remains of paint which had been left in the bathroom since it had been redecorated a few months ago. The children were all sent to bed because Mrs + Mr Ferguson felt that the other children ought to have told either Mr or Mrs Ferguson about it.

I was shown their holiday photographs and a good time was had by all by all accounts. Marjory had to attend the local hospital at St Andrews because her finger was not healing properly three times. She also required hospital treatment for a cut on her lip due to a fall in the caravan. An appointment had been made with her own doctor when the family came home just to make sure that Marjory's lip + finger were healing properly but neither Mr. or Mrs Ferguson mentioned this to me.

Just before Mr. Ferguson come home Gavin ~~was~~ come through to the livingroom asking for a drink of juice. He stayed in the livingroom talking about his holidays. There was nothing said about him joining his sisters in the bedroom. Mr Ferguson obviously had spent a great deal of time with Gavin on holiday. The girls spending more time with ~~the~~ their mother. Mrs Ferguson thinks that Marjory resented that a little.

J.W.K.

# CLIENT COPY

Ferguson.

1/8/83. When I visited the Ferguson family this afternoon they were all in the living room except Marjory who had been put to bed because after being told not to she had continued to 'play' with Sonia's push chair. Mr. + Mrs Ferguson say that the push chair is past its best and cannot stand up to Marjory trying to sit in it.

Later on Mr. Ferguson sent Dianne to bed for interrupting when he was talking. While this is something that does annoy him I had the feeling that he sent Dianne to bed to show me that Marjory was not the only one sent to bed. This feeling was reinforced when he allowed Dianne to join everyone else in the living room ten minutes later.

I asked Mr + Mrs Ferguson why they had not kept Marjory's appointment with the doctor. Both of them felt there was no need. They say that Marjory's finger + lip are fine now.

Mrs Ferguson was telling me that all the children had been given a new book (of their own choice) last week. At the weekend they had found Marjory tearing hers up. She would not (or could not) give Mrs Ferguson a reasons for doing it.

Both Mr. + Mrs Ferguson feel that it may be because the summer holidays are nearly finished and Marjory does not want to go back to Clarence Booth.

Mrs Ferguson has been going to the berry picking last week and intends to go as often as possible this week taking one of the children with her. Gavin earned a £1 picking berries one day while Marjory had no interest in picking and earned only a few pence. Mr. + Mrs Ferguson feel that this is wrong and that Marjory should at least try to earn ~~at~~ about 50 pence.

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1144

CLIENTS NAME: FERGUSON

SHEET No. \_\_\_\_\_

September - December

See case notes & report for reasons for further breakdown following re-standing of home trial.

I should point out that Mr Jave, headmaster of Parkwell P. School has consistently said that he sees no difference in the children's attitudes and behaviour whether they come to school from Florence Bank house or from home. The only noticeable change is that their standard of dress deteriorates a little when they are home - but they do not stand out in Beechwood terms.

Mr Jave says if he did not know the background of these children he would have no reason to feel concern about them. Parents are quite co-operative where there is need for contact with school.

Sonia joined Dianne at Warfield Nursery in November. Dianne likes nursery and continues to make good progress there.

Stress between Mr & Mrs Ferguson became clear during this period and their reaction to it <sup>has</sup> for Mr Ferguson to spend long periods away from home each night.

Some possible reasons - 1) couple spending so much time together that some conflict is inevitable.

2) The situation with Gail & Majory, and pressure from SWD, must bring with it a number of frustrations.

3) Mrs Ferguson is so far not pregnant again - despite her determination to have another child.

4) The deterioration in housekeeping standards. Mrs Ferguson knows this absolutely incenses Mr Ferguson and yet she has allowed it to happen at a crucial stage in development towards getting the child home.

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Usually the Foyes are pretty open about what is happening with them. At this time they closed up to some extent and co-operation became minimal.

Then the sudden withdrawal of girls being admitted to hospital with dysentery caused a break in contact. Gain was unaffected by the illness but obviously F.B.I. did not want it to spread so visits home were stopped.

In December McWallace the child's maternal father called to the department with a birthday present for Gain and Xmas presents for the two children. He said he had been out of town for a while but wanted to re-establish regular contact with the children. He did not offer any valid explanation for his lack of contact. A meeting was arranged between Kinsey, Mrs. Fisher and myself. We made it clear to him that all this after maternal parents turn up at Xmas with presents and the having raised the children's expectations of contact are not bound to agree for a considerable time. He said he fully intended to make a serious commitment to contact - this despite a lapse of two years (since Marilyn's admission to FBI), and his enquiries as to the well-being of the children. We made it clear that contact would have to be discussed with the Foyes and that it was still a plan to work towards rehabilitation with the family. We said that in the first instance we would prefer that he make contact with F.B.I. to begin with with what is happening with the children. We said it is more clear that he is sincere in his intentions (and not merely satisfying his own needs) we would like to see a resumption of contact. Neither Mrs. Fisher nor I were very impressed by McWallace's

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CLIENTS NAME: FERGUSON

SHEET No. \_\_\_\_\_

Sept - Dec. 83 contained statements about his intentions. On 23.12.83 Mrs Wallace sr. (the child's grandmother) phoned asking if she could have the child for a visit at Xmas. She denied that her son knew she was contacting me. As with her I made it clear that child needed grandparents all the time and not just at Xmas. This was her first contact since Mary's admission to care. Again like Mr Wallace I reckon that the sentimentalism surrounding Xmas probably prompted the contact. I made it clear that if the child had been well they would be going home to join their sisters and parents. I suggested that Mrs Wallace should make contact in the New Year if she wished to discuss the contact matter again - with Mr Fife and myself.

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Director of Housing,  
Housing Department,  
7 Castle Street,  
Dundee

MB/ABS

18th May 1983

Dear Sir,

Re Ferguson Family, 14 Dronley Place, Beechwood, Dundee

I understand that the above-named family have been in touch with your Department regarding the possibility of rehousing to a 5 apartment house with a garden. I have known this family since March 1981 [redacted] [redacted]. Marjory (6) spent some time with her natural father before joining her brother in Florence Booth Children's Home. Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson have two other children Dianne (3) and Sonia (18 months). Gavin and Marjory have been spending increasing periods at home and it is anticipated that they may spend the whole of the summer with their family. If this arrangement proves satisfactory the children could return home on a permanent basis.

I feel that a larger house with a garden where the children could play would be extremely helpful in increasing the possibility of a successful transition from the children's home to their family.

Yours faithfully,

  
Assistant Area Controller.

# CLIENT COPY

Mr. & Mrs. I. Ferguson  
14 Dronley Place  
Beechwood  
LONDON

MB/IS

27 September 1983

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Ferguson,

I called this afternoon but unfortunately you were out. I will call again on Thursday 29 September around 12.30 - 1.00 p.m. If this is unsuitable please phone me on Thursday morning and we can arrange another appointment.

Best wishes,

MB.

Ms. M. Black  
Social worker

Ms. Black - Ext. 3415

# CLIENT COPY

Department of Health & Social Security,  
Edward Street,  
DUNDEE.

NB/KM

17th November 1983

Dear Sir,

Re Gavin and Marjory Ferguson,  
14 Dronley Place, Beechwood,  
Dundee.

The above named children have been staying with their parents Douglas and Marjory Ferguson at the above address. On Wednesday 16th November the children were re-admitted to Florence Booth Children's Home. Could you please re-adjust Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson's benefit accordingly.

Yours faithfully,

MB.

Ms. M. Black  
Social Worker.

Ms. M. Black Ext. 3415.

# CLIENT COPY

Mr. & Mrs. Ferguson  
14 Dronley Place  
Beechwood  
DUNDEE

ME/IS

30 November 1983

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Ferguson,

I understand that you would like to see me regarding a meeting at Florence Booth House. Could you call in on Monday 5 December at 10.00 a.m. to see Judy McKenzie and myself. If this is unsuitable please phone and arrange another appointment.

Yours sincerely,

MB.

Ms. M. Black  
Social Worker

Ms. Black - Ext. 3415

# CLIENT COPY

Mr. & Mrs. D. Ferguson,  
14 Dronley Place,  
Beechwood,  
DUNDEE.

MB/KM

5th December 1983

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson,

Just a note to confirm our meeting with Mrs. Fisher at Florence Booth House  
next Monday, 12th December at 10.30 a.m.

Yours sincerely,

MB

Ms. M. Black  
Social Worker.

Ms. M. Black Ext. 3415.

# CLIENT COPY

Mr. G. Wallace,  
121 Carberry Crescent,  
Whitfield,  
QUINDEE.

MB/KM

6th December 1988

Dear Mr. Wallace,

Could you call into this office on Thursday 8th December to see myself and  
Mrs. Fisher, at 3 p.m.

If this appointment is unsuitable please telephone me to arrange another time.

Yours sincerely,

MB.

Ms. M. Black  
Social Worker.

Ms. M. Black Ext. 3418.

CLIENT COPY

Mr. & Mrs. Ferguson  
14 Dronley Place  
Beechwood  
DUNDEE

MB/IS

12 December 1983

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Ferguson,

I would like to call up to see you on Thursday 15 December between 4.30 -  
5.00 p.m.

If this is unsuitable please 'phone me to make another arrangement.

Yours sincerely,

MB

Ms. M. Black  
Social Worker

Ms. Black - Ext. 3415

# CLIENT COPY

Messrs. Rollo, Steven & Bond,  
Solicitors and Notaries,  
115 Seagate,  
DUNDEE.

DNM/EM

BTF/LW/NC

22nd December 1983

Dear Sirs,

Mr. & Mrs. D. Ferguson,  
14 Dronley Place,  
Beechwood, Dundee.


I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 2.12.83 and note the contents.

In response to the statement regarding contact with their social worker Ms. Black, it may be helpful for me to mention that Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson refused appointments with her and subsequently she was not available when they called at her office without making a prior arrangement.

Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson have now had contact with Ms. Black and have attended a meeting at Florence Booth Children's Home to discuss continuing contact with the two children. Both children are subject to 44 (1)(b) residential Supervision Orders through the Children's Hearing system. They have been spending increasing periods at home at the discretion of this Department but due to family difficulties recently it was felt necessary for the children to return to the Children's home. When the family situation is more settled it is anticipated that the children will spend more time with their family.

I trust that the above information will clarify the current situation.

Yours faithfully,



Mr. D. N. Middleton  
Area Controller