

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

KCT

Support person present: No

1. My name is KCT. I have used my middle name all my life and prefer to be known as KCT. My date of birth is 1968. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I was born in Leith and raised in the Bingham area in Edinburgh. In the family household there was my mum, father and my siblings and.
3. When I was just a baby my mum and dad split up and my sister and I stayed with my dad. My other two sisters stayed with my mother. Dad moved us into stay with his girlfriend, HQU who also had her own family. One of her sons was also called and that was when it was decided it would be easier for me to use my middle name. Since then I have used that for the rest of my life.
4. We initially lived in but when we moved to dad's girlfriend's house it was in the Bingham area. She had a daughter and five sons and we all lived in that one house. I think her youngest child was just a couple of years older than me.
5. I wasn't being looked after when I stayed there. When it came to the food we were never given enough and were always hungry. If the older kids were out working, then they paid HQU digs and were better fed. and I were always treated less because we were not HQU's kids.

6. In the bedroom I was in I slept in a bunk bed and would have to share it. There were lots of weeks and months that [HQU] would also take in lodgers. When she did this it meant that all the kids were cramped into even less space.
7. My father was working most of the day as a mechanic, but like [HQU] he was a heavy drinker. Sometimes when he came home from work [HQU] would make things up about us having done something wrong. She would tell my dad that he had to give me a slap on the backside. He did as she asked and all this despite the fact that we had done nothing wrong.
8. When I stayed with [HQU] there was a lot of sexual abuse taking place. I can remember different men coming to the house. Some of them would lift me out of the bed and I was sexually abused by them. My sister [HQU] was also being abused but I never saw it taking place.
9. I can remember one time one of my brothers, [HQU], was being raped in the other bunk. As soon as I was aware I tried to intervene and was shouting at this unknown male. It stopped but I don't remember anyone doing that when it happened to me.
10. One of my step brothers, [HQU], was also sexually abusing me. I can remember this taking place as far back as my memory will take me.
11. When I was about aged nine my dad left the home and went off with another woman. He left us in the care of [HQU]. I don't know if anyone, including the social work, was aware of the arrangement.
12. There was a time when [HQU] was talking to my dad and she told him that she was being abused in the house and that it was happening to me as well. She told him she wanted to go with him and she was taken away, but I was left behind. Dad did come to the house and asked me if I was being abused by [HQU]'s son [HQU]. He did this in front of [HQU]. I couldn't tell him the truth as I was too scared. They were both aware that other men were abusing me but did nothing about it.

13. When I was staying with [HQU] I went to Lismore Primary School and then moved on to Portobello High School. I found school really horrible. We were never washed or dressed properly. She was happy sending me to school looking like a tramp. Because we were never fed properly I would find food in bins or anywhere else that I could. I can remember one of the teachers finding me in one of the large bins at the school, eating some of the cakes that had been thrown out.
14. The social work did visit at the house but that was very sporadic. I think it may have been because I was missing school a lot. When they came to the house they were supposed to take me out some days.
15. I can remember [HQU] became a community worker and started working beside some of the social workers looking after us.

Unknown foster care – West Pilton, Edinburgh

16. When I was in primary six or seven the teachers noticed I had a lot of bruising. They would ask how that happened but I never told them the truth. I was sent to the children's panel but I am not sure if that was the reason or a culmination of everything.
17. I remember that I was placed for about a week with a family in the West Pilton area of Edinburgh. I cannot remember much about my stay there or where their address was. I do remember the kids were always out shoplifting. After the week I was back with [HQU]
18. During this time when I was at [HQU]'s it did not take long before the atmosphere was back to the usual and I was missing some school again. At this time [HQU]'s time there had come to an end and she had been placed in care elsewhere. I was sent to my dad's, who was now staying in Innerleithen. My dad's new partner did not want me in the house and after about a week I was again back in [HQU]'s.

19. I was back with **HQU** for about a year before the atmosphere was back where I was not being looked after and not going to school as often as I should have been. She had managed to get her diploma in social care and we were staying in a community block, run by the social work. We did not have a room in the building, for a couple of weeks we just slept on camp beds in the office.
20. Eventually we managed to get a room staying with one of her friends and then we got a new house a bit later.
21. I was now staying in Kilmarnock and soon back at another panel and **HQU** and her new husband told the panel that I was out with their control. I was surprised by what she was saying about me. The panel never asked me anything and were looking for me to go to an assessment centre. The only option where there was space was I was to be sent to the Kibble School in Paisley.

Kibble School, Paisley

22. I was about fourteen when I was sent to the Kibble and was to be there for about two weeks. One of the staff that I can remember was **KCP** and he was the **[REDACTED]**.

First day

23. When I arrived at the Kibble it seemed a very scary, damp and dreary place. It looked like there was an older building with a new build beside it. The new build was also having additional extension work being carried out.
24. As soon as I walked through the door the boys were all staring at me and the staff gave me the impression of them being really scary people. I was the only one at that time that had an Edinburgh accent and all the other boys seemed to be from the Glasgow area.

25. The regime at the Kibble I would describe as being like a youth club for problem children and the staff were just there to act as security.
26. I was placed into a dormitory in the new part of the home. When I got to the dormitory I could see that some of the beds were the type that folded up into a cupboard in the wall.

Mealtimes/Food

27. The kitchen we had in the Kibble was always open for anyone to use. There was always milk going missing and when ^{KCP} asked where it had gone the older boys blamed me. I hadn't taken it and tried to stand up for myself. With me getting the blame ^{KCP} threw me over a table and hit me with a teapot. With all the noise from me hitting the table some other staff came running in to see what was happening. ^{KCP} told them that I was stealing and that I had struggled when he tried to speak to me about it. The staff again believed him and no one asked me. Nothing happened to him.

Clothing/uniform

28. When I arrived at the Kibble I only had the clothes that I was wearing. They were really dirty.

Leisure time

29. My leisure time was usually spent watching television in the recreation area. There might have been a pool table but I don't remember playing it.

School

30. Education at Kibble was very basic. I can only remember there was a teacher and they taught art. There was never anyone that came to the school and I never saw any reports that may have been completed on me.

Healthcare

31. I never saw or was visited by a doctor or any dentist.

Work

32. Part of the things we had to do when we stayed at the home was to help out labouring for the extension work being done. I can remember I had to sand down all different surfaces. We were just being used as cheap labour.

Visits

33. I was supposed to be in the home for an assessment but I never saw or spoke with any social workers while I was there.

Abuse at Kibble School, Paisley

34. I was always the victim of bullying from the other boys. One night I could hear them talking about what they were going to do to me. I managed to get up, place the pillow where my head would be and hide behind the large curtains. One of the boys went over to my bed and where my head should have been he was hitting that area with a juice bottle. I was screaming at that and making as much noise as I could. The night staff guy came up but he did nothing to protect me. The other boys blamed me so he just gave me the row.
35. There were other times some of the older boys would get hold of a sheet of sandpaper. They then folded this in half and then used it to cut the back of my neck. That was really sore and took a while for the cuts to heal. A teacher did see the cuts and he asked me how I got them. I was too scared and just stayed silent. I don't know what his name was.

Reporting of abuse at Kibble School, Paisley

36. I can remember that when I was being picked up by the social work that another boy in the home said to them to have a look at all the bruising on my body. They did and saw all the marks. They checked me over and saw the bruising. They took me into the office to speak with me and two of the Kibble staff. I was too scared to say anything about it. The Kibble staff tried to say they were unaware of how it occurred. I spoke up and told them they did know about it, that they were aware of the incident with **KCP** **KCP** when he had thrown me over the table.

Leaving Kibble School, Paisley

37. When I went to the Children's Hearing the social work made the panel aware of the bruising and the panel apologised saying to me that this should never have happened. The social work also told **HQU** what happened to me and she accepted that I could go back and stay with her.
38. When I got home **HQU** was pretending to be a good mum and told me that by sending me to the panel she was trying to teach me a lesson, but not to see me being hurt.
39. Having got through her various qualifications **HQU** had been promoted in her work and was not in quite a high position with Community Care Work.
40. I was enrolled with Grange Academy. When I was going there I was still not being dressed any better. The clothes were still dirty and I was looking like a tramp. At this time **[REDACTED]** tried to sexually abuse me on a couple of occasions and **HQU** was still physically hurting me. There was a time when I was getting a bit stronger and stood up to **[REDACTED]**. He told me that I was just a tease. That has stayed with me most of my life. How can he turn it around by abusing me into somehow it is all my fault.

41. [HQU] was also running a club for youths. I also appeared to [REDACTED]. She always gave the impression to everybody that she was a good woman, but they did not know what she was like when looking after me. Because the social work believed her, they did nothing about me not being dressed or washed properly. They never spoke to me to find out what life was like then.
42. She was always nipping at my skin. She pretended that she had cramp in her hand and that was her reason for hurting me, but that was only an excuse to hurt me more. She would start to cry saying how sorry she was for hurting me. I would respond by giving her a cuddle saying it was alright. I did not know any better and I think I loved the woman, despite what was happening.
43. I was skipping school again and they decided that things were at a stage that I was to be expelled. Once more I was back at a panel and the decision was that I should be sent to Kerelaw, but not as a boarder, just a day boy. After being there for my education during the day it was back to [HQU]'s at night. I was fifteen when I went to Kerelaw and stayed until just before my sixteenth birthday.

Routine at Kerelaw Residential School, Stevenson

44. One of the teachers that I can remember from my time in Kerelaw was a man called Matt George. He was the art teacher at the school and was in a relationship with another member of staff.

Discipline

45. There was a time when one of the older boys had found some romantic letters that had been written between Matt George and the other female teacher. He and some of the other boys stuck some of the letters to the staff room door. It was obvious that when the woman was made aware she was extremely upset.

46. We were all asked to go to the office and we were spoken to separately. When we went to the office the female teacher was also there and she was asking who was responsible. I always thought they knew I wasn't involved but that I was aware of who did it. I didn't answer her. She said that she was surprised that I would be involved in it and felt that I had let everyone down. I couldn't say who did it as I was too scared what would happen to me after they found out.
47. Matt George found out that I was not saying who was responsible. He also told me that he was disappointed with me. As a result of this incident the staff treated me differently. They even contacted [HQU] to see if she could get me to tell who was responsible. They were also aware that there were some letters still missing and wanted them back.
48. I was kept one night in Kerelaw and made to sleep in the dormitory. This was to show me that if I was misbehaving, I was given a taste of what it would be like as a resident and not a day pupil. This was arranged between the staff and [HQU]. I spent that night in the dormitory but nothing untoward happened.

Running away

49. I was back to skipping school because the staff were no longer treating me the same as they did when I arrived at Kerelaw. I then ran away and when I was away someone, not me, broke into [HQU]'s house. I bumped into one of my brother's girlfriends and she was asking if I was involved. I told her I was not involved and that I did not know who was. I managed to stay away for about three weeks before I was caught by the police.

Abuse at Kerelaw Residential School, Stevenson

50. There was a day we were in the dining room and one of the staff fell out with me for no reason. Once more I had someone throw a teapot at me.

51. There was another member of staff who had a favourite boy. He would have arranged for that boy to fight me at the back of the building. The boy had a studded belt and he wrapped that around his hand and used that to hit me. The member of staff was standing watching but did nothing to help me or to stop the boy.
52. When I was in the class Matt George was really inappropriate. He would come behind where I was seated and he would rub his groin against me. At other times he was always leaning over me and keeping himself too close. It wasn't just me he did this to, he would do it to the boy who fought me.
53. The PT guy would have us in the gym and would make us do boxing with one arm and with only one glove. He was doing that as it was so difficult to defend yourself. He would arrange for the older boys to fight the younger boys and see how hard they could hit us. The older boys just saw it as being funny because they could hit us without anything happening to them.

Reporting of abuse at Kerelaw Residential School, Stevenson

54. I could not report any of the abuse because most of it was being carried out by the staff and there was no one else we could speak to.
55. By this time I was being abused by so many adults I had no trust to talk to anyone. They made me feel that I only existed for them to abuse me. I even loved a woman, HQU, who was abusing me. How much hurt and abuse had I suffered to make me feel so worthless. Even in Kerelaw there was so much sexual undertones in everything they did that I feel there was no respite.

Leaving Kerelaw Residential School, Stevenson

56. Having been caught by the police after running away I was marked as being unruly and sent to the Sheriff Court. This was just before I turned sixteen and the Sheriff

decided he wanted some social work reports and I was to be sent to Longriggend Boys Unit. This was to be for an assessment period for two weeks before they decided where I would end up.

Routine at Longriggend Boys Unit, Airdrie

57. En route to Longriggend the transport van stopped at Barlinnie where I was put into what they called the dog box until the staff from Longriggend came to collect me. It is called a dog box as they passed the food through the bottom of the door. I was to stay there until the next transport to Longriggend.
58. When I arrived at Longriggend it did not take long for the other prisoners to start bullying me because my accent was different. In Longriggend most of the boys there were once more from the Glasgow area.

Daily routine

59. The normal routine would be that the staff woke you early in the morning and we were into the bathrooms to get a wash. We then went for breakfast and spent most of the day in the classroom. There was some recreation time at night.

Mealtimes/Food

60. The food was horrible there. It was very basic jail food, with no choices. You just ate what you were given, even if you did not like the food. If you left the food you just went hungry. No one would force feed you and there was always someone who would eat the food you did not want.

Clothing/uniform

61. When I arrived at Longriggend I was issued with my prison issue uniform and then taken to the cell which I was to share with another prisoner.

Schooling

62. Any teaching was carried out in the education block within the grounds of Longriggend. We had to go there each day. I don't remember being taught much.

Family contact

63. I was in the education unit one day when I was visited by the social work and they had [HQU] with them. I was taken to what was basically a store room to speak to them. The social work were still thinking I was the one who broke into [HQU]'s house. She was asking why I did and why did I upset [HQU]. [HQU] got up and started punching me and had to be dragged off me by the social worker. No one believed that I was not involved. In some way I was happy she did this because I was hoping the social worker would do something about it but she never did.

Visits/Inspections

64. I did get a visit from a social worker from the Edinburgh area. He told me he had been in touch with my real mother. My mum had been in touch with them and told them I had been getting abused while I was staying with [HQU]. The social worker was asking if I would tell him about what was happening. I couldn't tell him and nothing seemed to happen. One of the reasons was the wording he used, "Hanky Panky". That seemed to belittle the abuse I was receiving and could not have told him anything.

Abuse at Longriggend Boys Unit, Airdrie

65. I was only there for a short time before I was beaten by the boys there. They already had a hierarchy with the boys and I did not fit in with them. I tried to act as if I was an older boy and tough but that fell apart when I asked one of the other boys where the tuck shop was. They knew right away that I was much younger than them and not used to the system.

66. I was in my cell one day when two older boys came in and used two wooden towel holders to beat me. I was covered in bruises. The other boy who I shared the cell with returned and he too was given the same beating. Staff must have been aware from the noise in the cell but did nothing about it.
67. There was another activity the staff organised which was called murder ball. A ball was thrown at you and as you caught it the other boys would charge at you and hit you. As you were made to hold the ball you had difficulty in defending yourself. The staff watched but did nothing as you were being hit.

Reporting of abuse at Longriggend Boys Unit, Airdrie

68. There was no one to report to. If the staff were all ignoring the beatings as they happened what chance was there of them listening to my complaints. Again if I did report anything I would have been in more trouble with the other inmates.

Leaving Longriggend Boys Unit, Airdrie

69. After my assessment period I was back at the Sheriff Court and the social workers made them aware of what happened to me in Longriggend. They were also told that I had recently found out my mum's partner had died but that I had a chance of staying with her. They felt sorry for me and were releasing me from any other imprisonment. The only thing was they told me I had to stay with **HQU**, before returning to my mum's house and I was made to go back to stay with her until my actual sixteenth birthday.
70. I was back living with **HQU** and on my last night there she invited her sons over. When they came over they gave me a cigarette they said to **HQU** that she must know I smoked and as it was my birthday she should let me have a smoke.

71. [REDACTED] then started shouting at me saying she did not believe I had not broken into the house. She began hitting me about the head and body. I just took it as I knew I would soon be away and living with my own mother. [REDACTED] was angry because I was leaving her and she took it as a form of betrayal.
72. When I moved back with my mum it was in her new house in Leith that she had bought with her new partner. I only lasted about six months there. The problem I had with my mum was that I was looking for someone to love me and she was wanting to make up in her way by buying me lots of things from money she had inherited. She wasn't a bad woman she just kept giving me money when I wanted her companionship. I ended up leaving there and moved in with my sister [REDACTED].
73. I went to Longriggend again, but this time it was the main building, as I was older. I was sent on remand there. The problem was when I was on the transport bus it was too late at night to get me to Longriggend and they had to leave me at Barlinnie. I had to spend the night there in the adult hall before being transferred in the morning. I was not allowed to mix with the adults and was locked into a cell by myself.
74. I was involved in a fight and as a punishment I was sent to the dog leg set of cells. In there the staff removed the mattresses and you only had the floor to sit on. You could spend up to twenty four hours a day and I spent the two weeks there. I was treated like an animal while I was there.
75. After that remand period I was there for two weeks and supposed to be back in court. The problem was I never saw any social workers and they had not provided any reports. I was then sent back for another two weeks.
76. I was stripped naked by the staff and sent down to the digger (Punishment cells). The staff used different arm locks on me and had me trussed up like a turkey. I was screaming in pain from the arm locks. I was sent to the Governor and given two weeks in that dog leg set of cells. Again I felt like an animal.
77. When I eventually got to court I was sent to Glenochil for three months detention.

Routine at Glenochil YOI, Alloa

Day to day routine

78. The normal day to day routine would be that we were out of the cell in the morning, have a wash, and then allowed out for a while. We were back in the cell for main meal of the day. We were out in the afternoon to the work shed for a lot of marching and indoor PT work.
79. When I went to Glenochil I found it was like an army regime where we were made to march everywhere when we moved about the different areas. Each day we had to keep the cells shiny and they told us we had to use bed block method when making the beds in the morning.
80. The Government knew what was going on and they called it short sharp treatment to teach me a lesson.

Leisure

81. We never had any books or toys when we were there. We were issued with a bible and sent to bible classes. They would issue you with a paper containing around one hundred questions on the bible. At the end of your time with the different bible classes you were issued a certificate showing you had completed all the questions.

Abuse at Glenochil YOI, Alloa

82. Part of PT work each day we were to do was we were made to run a mile every day. Some of the weaker kids were also made by him and other staff to run the gauntlet. The staff lined the other boys up in two lines and the weaker boys, including me, had to run between them. The lined up boys were only supposed to use the back of their

hands to hit the boy as he ran but many resorted to punching us. I had to run the gauntlet on four different occasions.

83. The PT instructor had a cricket bat which he had named "Hector". He tended to pick on the weaker boys, including me, and use the flat side of the bat to hit me over the backside. When he hit you it was like a slapping noise and it happened to me twice.
84. I remember I was put on report for talking in line. The punishment the governor handed out was to scrub some of the square tiles on the floors. I was handed a pail of water, a bar of soap and a scrubbing brush. This was hard as some of the staff were standing over me and shouting at me. We had to do this until we were hurting so much they made you cry.
85. He was shouting at me to stop splashing the water on myself as he thought I was trying to make myself look like I was sweating from working hard.
86. Any punishment we had to carry out at Glenochil would mean we were not allowed out for any recreation time.

Leaving Glenochil YOI, Alloa

87. At the end of my time I was released after about two and a half months. I should have been out earlier but they kept adding remission time whenever I was on a punishment.

Life after being in care

88. When I left the care system I was an angry young man. After leaving I was with my mum for a few days before moving in with my sister. My sister [REDACTED] was living down in the Borders area and I got myself into trouble for fighting and ended up appearing at different courts as a result. I was around eighteen or nineteen I served a sentence at Polmont YOI but other than being the usual prison system there were no issues of

any abuse. I then spent the next many years in an out of different prisons for a variety of offences.

89. I did get a job as an alarm sales advisor and went on to become an area supervisor. I was getting into trouble and appearing at court. As a result I lost that job.
90. I have had a few long term relationships and have five children. I was twenty one when my first child was born to another woman, separate from my current partner. I have two children from another relationship and another two to a third woman. Apart from my current relationship I still see my middle two from the previous one. I have recently been able to make contact with my other children and am currently building up those relationships.
91. I have been living in the Edinburgh area from around the year 2000. I met my current partner and we have been together for the last four years
92. In 2007 I was attacked by some people with [REDACTED]. Apart from the obvious injuries this led to some of my mental health problems and being diagnosed with PTSD.
93. Throughout my life with my own kids I have never hit any of my kids and would never use that as a form of punishment. I was able to show them how much I loved them and cared for them. I might also have been a bit over protective with them.
94. I found it difficult to show love to my partners. I always give off a guarded or tough appearance when that is not what I intend.
95. I did later go back down to the Bingham area where I lived to try and see my old house. I saw a set of woods where I was abused and as a result I have not gone back there again.

Impact

96. My education was definitely impacted as there was no formal education given at any of the places I was in. I was never given sufficient schooling to be able to sit any exams, which affected what jobs I might have been able to apply for.
97. My whole life I felt that my time in care just made me feel I was to be abused by any adult looking after me. I always felt wherever I went I was soon to be abused by someone yet again.
98. I have always suffered from depression and still suffer from terrible nightmares. I was seeing a therapist with Health and Mind when I had started having flashbacks from all my childhood trauma. I was getting some help from own GP and he was the one that diagnosed me with PTSD. I was so relieved when he found this and he was able to reassure me that I was not mentally ill. He was able to give me some medication to help me sleep at night.
99. After seeing my GP he referred me to a psychiatrist at the River Centre and he put me on some medication to try and help me. I did not find they were helping me as I was always feeling horrible and ended up stopping them.
100. When I was about thirty years old I ended up resorting to taking drugs to try and get rid of some of the memories. I have been off and on a drug rehabilitation programme since 2007. I am currently prescribed Methadone to help come off hard drugs.
101. My time in care affected my relationship with my real family but at this moment in time we are not in a good place. There are no arguments or anything just we don't see each other much. I lost a lot of bonding time with my siblings because of the abuse in the house and then being in care. With what happened with the breakdown of my family I lost out on all the nurturing side of life. I always felt as a child that I was never cared for and had been abandoned by own parents. I took all those feelings into my adult life.

102. After I moved out [HQU]'s house and permanently in with my mum, I had no other contact with [HQU]. She died in 2013. After [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] was sent to jail I never had any more contact with that family.
103. I have a lot of shame in my head from what all the different people did to me. It has been pointed out to me that I have low self-esteem. Sometimes because the abuse I suffered as a child was of a sexual nature it makes me feel bad inside.

Reporting of Abuse

104. Around 2005/2006 I reported some of the abuse that happened when I stayed with [HQU] and what her son [REDACTED] also did to us. The police came and took a statement. [HQU] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. I was asked to give evidence against [REDACTED] and he was found guilty and sent to prison for six years. [HQU] had refused to name any of the men she was handing us out to for abuse and [REDACTED].
105. After the court case about our abuse my sister received £30,000 in compensation. When it came to me I was told I was getting nothing because of my criminal record. They never took into account that had I not been abused I might not have ended up in the prison system. I have never applied for any compensation for my time in care.
106. None of the incidents in any of the care establishments has ever been reported to the police or any other authority. At the time I was being abused in those places I thought it was just normal life. Only later as an adult did I realise that it was abuse.

Records

107. I have never applied for any of my records as I have never considered that I needed them. That might change after having been to the Inquiry.

Lessons to be learned

- 108. I think of kids go into care they need to be shown love and care. They need to be looked after properly and not arriving or staying in care looking scruffy and dirty.
- 109. You are not going to stop abuse with the initial vetting, you have to keep checking on people looking after kids. They don't always stay being good people.
- 110. If a child is being quiet you need to find out why they are being quiet. If they won't open up it might be a trust issue and they need to be put in touch with the right people to make them feel safe and open up to them. They need to be believed and do something about it as soon as possible to stop it happening again.
- 111. A good foster care placement can be a good thing if they are the kind of people that can provide love and care in a family environment.

Other information

- 112. I have been in touch with Future Pathways and they have offered some help with counselling. For me that is not working out just now as it is not face to face and only conducted via the computer.
- 113. 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..... 11.5.22