

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

HTI

Support person present: No

1. My name is HTI. My date of birth is 1971. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Introduction

2. My boyfriend was HTJ. He submitted an application to the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry in 2016. HTJ was in prison at that time and we were no longer together but we were in a relationship for many years from around 1991 and he often spoken to me about his time in care and the abuse he was subjected to.
3. HTJ died in 2018 before making a statement to the Inquiry. I then contacted the Inquiry and asked if I could speak on HTJ's behalf, because, I knew how much giving a statement meant to him. I am therefore providing this statement for both HTJ and our 20 year old son, HTJ, who also has things he wants to say, but just isn't able to, right now.

Life before going into care – HTJ

4. HTJ was born in the Vale of Leven Hospital in Glasgow on 1976. His mum was HTJ and his dad was HTJ. He had an older brother HTJ who is about 43 and a younger sister, HTJ who's about 37, she was born in 1981.

5. HTJ was brought up in Faifley, Clydebank, Glasgow, at [REDACTED]. The family then moved on to [REDACTED], Clydebank. His mum and dad are still there, in [REDACTED]. He said his parents drank a bit and went out a lot to country western pubs and that his childhood wasn't very good.
6. Apparently when he was a baby he was always crying and his parents tried to get him help from the social services and other organisations. They thought he possibly had ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) but that wasn't recognised in the seventies.
7. He went to [REDACTED] Primary School and he said he did okay in the classroom but that he was always wanting to fight in the playground with other kids. His dad encouraged him to fight and not allow people to bully him, to stand up for himself.
8. He said other children would make fun of him because his family didn't have much money. He wore plimsolls to school and he even had to wear old football boots with the studs taken out. He remembered walking along the floors at the school and the boots making a funny noise and that he was so embarrassed.
9. When he was six his sister was born and HTJ said he seemed to become the family scapegoat after that, getting the blame for everything. Another thing was that HTJ's favourite uncle, his uncle [REDACTED], died when HTJ was eight or nine and HTJ was very upset about that as they were very close.
10. HTJ couldn't cope with his uncle [REDACTED] dying, it was like he'd never been loved by anyone else, maybe he felt unloved by his parents, I don't know. He started setting fires and stealing stuff and his parents couldn't control him.
11. He told me he stole sweets and gave them to his brother and sister because they had nothing and he felt sorry for them. Then HTJ would get hit by his mum and dad for stealing.

12. He also told me his parents tried to get help for him and that he had a child psychologist when he was tiny but they couldn't work out what was wrong with him. His sister has since told me, as an adult, that he had some kind of split personality. He would be really loving and everything but then there was this other side of him that made him naughty.
13. It was a combination of everything I've just told you about that led to HTJ going into a home.

Ballikinrain Residential School, Stirling

General

14. HTJ went into Ballikinrain on ██████████ 1987 when he was eleven. That was his first care home and he was there for about twelve weeks, but he kept running away so he went to other homes. I don't have the names of all the homes HTJ went to.
15. He was in care for about eight years, and it was always being extended, because he was always getting into trouble and running away. He went to a care home in Falkirk and another one in Cardross, I can't remember the names. His sister told me she remembered visiting HTJ at Cardross on a family day and he was about thirteen then. He also went to a young offenders place. I know he certainly spent most of his time between Ballikinrain and Kerelaw. The social work department should have all those details.
16. HTJ described Ballikinrain as being like a castle in the middle of nowhere. He didn't go into detail about the place so I don't know how many kids were there or stuff like that. I know it was mixed, boys and girls, but I mainly remember the abuse that he told me about.
17. He did say his parents and his sister would go and visit him now and again but not really that often. When they did visit they were always with the social workers. I know

one of his social workers was a Margo Kidd and there was also a man called Jim and a woman called Christine. I would have thought they would have been from Clydebank social work department.

Abuse at Ballikinrain

18. It was all ex-army types that were in charge and they did a lot of bullying and making the kids fight with one another. HTJ never said any names to me and he told me this quite a few years back.
19. There was a man that abused him at Ballikinrain, he would twist and cross HTJ testicles and HTJ ended up having to go to hospital. That was when he was about twelve or thirteen. The hospital put a peg thing put inside his testicle to treat it. The home must have known about that, surely they would have been told.
20. He also said there were two girls that were abused as well. The person that did it went into their rooms at night. The same person that abused HTJ abused the two girls. I'm not sure how HTJ knew about the two girls and I don't know what the male member of staff did to them but I recall HTJ saying something about hearing the girls screaming in their room and the man then going to HTJ's room. I think the girls must have spoken to HTJ about it.
21. The abuser was a male member of staff but HTJ didn't go into much detail he just said the man crushed HTJ's testicles with his hands. That was in HTJ's room and I presume it was at night.
22. HTJ's testicles did swell up from that but the staff did nothing. Then HTJ had appendix problems and had to be taken into hospital. It was then that they dealt with his testicle problem. HTJ was about thirteen or fourteen when he had his appendix problem.

23. HTJ told me he was always running away from all the care homes he was ever in. That was before and during the sexual abuse. He would sometimes run quite a distance from home or go to friends in Clydebank. He would steal cars and get into trouble, get caught by the police and then get returned to the homes by the social work or the police.
24. He took acid when he was eleven or twelve, committed an armed robbery and crashed a stolen car. That was when he broke his leg. That was all when he was in care and always when he was running away. He hid away and stayed in places like toilets in Glasgow city centre.
25. HTJ certainly told me there was a lot of physical, emotional and sexual abuse at Ballikinrain. He said they did gruelling physical exercises, got hit a lot and were made to fight a lot, by these army types. Boys were also hit with bats if they weren't doing sports right, things like that.
26. I know HTJ named two sexual abusers, HTH and GOU, on his application form to the Inquiry. I'm not sure what home that was in, it might have been Ballikinrain. HTJ has also told both me and his sister the names of two other people who sexually abused him as a child. They were John Muldoon and KBE. I don't know where they were from or what they were responsible for and I don't know if they were the same ones he told his sister about.

Reporting of abuse at Ballikinrain

27. I think HTJ found it hard to speak about. I think he did tell staff but he wasn't believed and they just called him a tell-tale. The impression I got was that he did tell people but no one ever believed him so he kept it to himself and didn't tell anyone until he was a bit older.

Leaving Ballikinrain

28. I'm not sure why or exactly when HTJ was moved on from Ballikinrain but I think he might have then gone on to Kerelaw. It was a young offenders place.

Kerelaw Residential School, Stevenston

General

29. HTJ was at Kerelaw from about 1988 until 1993. He said it was about five years, from age twelve to fifteen.
30. It was the only place he received any education and he did alright in some exams. I think he struggled with English. He certainly sat some exams and did some YTS (Youth Training Scheme) work. I know he worked for about six months as a commis chef in 1992.

Abuse at Kerelaw

31. When HTJ was in Kerelaw I think he may have had a girlfriend and something was done to her by one of the staff, an art teacher there. HTJ told me the art teacher was a right pervert and that he touched up the girls in class. I think he may have gone to their rooms as well.
32. The art teacher was called Matthew George, apparently he was well known for touching up the girls at the school.
33. HTJ knew it was going on and he was trying to help her so he would go to her room and call her away when the art teacher was there.
34. HTJ certainly spoke of physical and emotional abuse towards himself, at Kerelaw. He said there was hitting and beating if anyone stepped out of line. I can't give you

any specific examples, I'm sorry, I don't know any more about Kerelaw. HTJ just said it wasn't very nice. HTJ didn't have a very nice life at all.

35. HTJ started taking drugs at Kerelaw, to block out the abuse and to drown all the feelings. He was quite young when he was doing that, he must have been eleven or twelve.

Life after being in care

36. I'm not sure exactly when HTJ left Kerelaw but he did the commis chef training and then got a job as a go-kart marshall at HTJ. He was in a homeless place for a while but then he got a flat when he was about eighteen. I know his support worker at the homeless unit was a John Dee.
37. HTJ also lived in Ireland for a while with an aunt and uncle. They were also drinking a lot so he got moved to another uncle in Woolwich in London. It was his cousins down there that introduced him to heroin so the drug thing got even worse. Then he started overdosing and self-harming.
38. In 1996, when HTJ was about twenty, he was admitted to the Orchard House Psychiatric Ward in HTJ and that's where I met him. I was there for about three weeks for anxiety and depression. I got to know him and I was trying to get him help. He had a drink and drug problem and had been suicidal.
39. I think I was about 26 then and when he came out we got together and he moved in with me. He was still taking drugs and self-harming a lot, cutting himself HTJ. He just wasn't happy. The hospital treated it as drugs and psychosis without looking at any possible underlying problems.
40. I didn't know then what I know now about the abuse. HTJ only told me little bits at a time. He was in prison a lot and would never have talked about it during visits. I

didn't know about all the abuse until years later, and the names of those responsible would only have been in August 2017.

41. I got pregnant and decided to stay with HTJ because that's what people do, they stay together. He went in and out of prison a lot, had drug addiction counselling but he was always having problems. The psychiatrists could never do much as HTJ was always under the influence of drink or drugs.
42. He was eventually diagnosed with PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder), schizophrenia and a personality disorders, by a prison psychiatrist but that was after he had disclosed the abuse he suffered as a child. I don't know exactly when that was or what detail HTJ went into. He did self-harm a lot so he was seeking help.
43. So we stayed together and I would visit him in prison but when he got out he became even stranger still. He was injecting heroin and I couldn't handle that with my depression. Eventually the relationship ended but we always maintained contact and I stayed his friend.
44. I had my son HTJ with him so I still tried to help him as much as I could. HTJ missed HTJ as he was in prison all the time. Even when he was out, if he had nowhere to live, I would let him stay at our home, although that may have made things worse as he might have thought we still had a relationship.
45. When he was out of prison HTJ saw a CPN (Community Psychiatric Nurse) and he was on probation. He got injections but he needed more help and I did try and get it for him. I don't think he was really getting much support.
46. The police would section him and they once found him trying to hang himself, in fact he did that a few times.
47. That would have upset HTJ but thankfully he wasn't around to see most of what HTJ was doing to himself. I know HTJ just wished he had a normal life with his

dad. There was a point when he hated his dad but then he learned and understood more about HTJ.

48. HTJ died in [REDACTED] 2018. It was at the [REDACTED] where he was staying at the time. There was a post mortem and they said it wasn't a suicide but multi-drug toxicity, the effects of all the different drugs that were in his system. HTJ also had pneumonia, an enlarged heart and COPD (Coronary Obstructive Pulmonary Disease). He wasn't the most healthy, he was obese and had all those breathing problems.
49. Two days before HTJ died he found out there was a registered sex offender staying at the same home he was in. That had a terrible effect on him. He was really angry and he told his key worker at the time. I think the key workers' name was Sunny. The manager at [REDACTED] is [REDACTED]. I was angry too and I said I was going to go to the papers. It was so wrong, to have a sex offender in the same place as HTJ. He had been doing so well, then he found that out and everything changed.

Impact

HTJ [REDACTED]

50. HTJ was a loving person but he had this side to him that was always worrying about things. He worried about money then committed crime. He also really struggled when people were being nice to him, he couldn't handle that.
51. HTJ spent a lot of time in prison, in fact, he sometimes did things deliberately just to get put away, because prison was where he seemed to get the best help.
52. Many years after the abuse at Ballikinrain, HTJ had problems down below. When he was in prison he kept finding lumps and getting scans of his testicles. That will surely be linked to the abuse he sustained. I don't know how often that was.

53. HTJ always said he wished he could be like a normal father and just go out and play football with [REDACTED]. He just couldn't ever do that, he was just never able to lead a normal life.
54. The abuse just ruined his life. He had such an unstable background what with going into care, being abused and getting out of control with the drugs. I think he did all the bad things he did, because he just wasn't leading a happy life.

HTI [REDACTED]

55. My relationship with HTJ was, at times, very stressful and I have suffered from depression as a result. I've been on medication to help with that for over twenty years now. There was a point when I wanted to kill myself and thought I couldn't go on any longer with him but I thought about my son and that was why I had to split up with HTJ. HTJ didn't like that but later on he understood.
56. HTJ was a lovely person but he had a side to him that if anything good was happening he couldn't handle it. He would have to do something to compromise that and I think that is down to his personality disorders.
57. He was also always worrying about money which led to him committing more and more crime, so that was quite stressful. The thing is, I did love him, and I tried to stay with him, but there was always problems getting him help with his mental health. He went to prison quite a lot and it was difficult just trying to get people to take him seriously.
- [REDACTED]
58. [REDACTED] is still coming to terms with the death of his father and although he wanted to speak to the Inquiry about his dad, he just isn't up to a face to face interview, certainly not at this moment in time. He has written out a statement, which he gave to me, and which I have given to the Inquiry.

59. The statement describes how the system failed his father and affected [REDACTED] life. He refers to the importance of a child having a father's influence and how the lack of that, in his life, has hindered some of his social skills, particularly his confidence.
60. [REDACTED] also refers to crying and wondering 'why me' but as he got older he began to understand that it was his dad that had to endure the inhuman situations he was placed in. [REDACTED] feels the system failed his dad, as a child, and that when his dad suffered abuse, as a child, he received more rejection than support.

Records

61. I haven't tried to get copies of any of [REDACTED] records and I don't know if he or anyone else has either.

Lessons to be learned

62. I think the abuse completely ruined [REDACTED] life. He went from an unstable family to a place where he had all that abuse and then he didn't trust anyone anymore. That is why he had such a difficult life and went into drugs, to try and hide the pain, being out of control and his chaotic lifestyle.
63. I got on alright with [REDACTED] because we always talked about stuff. I think he did the drug thing and the thieving because he wasn't used to a happy life.
64. Lessons need to be learned from places like [REDACTED] was at and justice needs to be done. There needs to be stricter control in these homes, that is what [REDACTED] wanted.
65. I'd like to think solicitors or whoever could look at [REDACTED] records and find out who the people were, who the staff were, that abused [REDACTED]. They shouldn't be able to get away with it and they might have done it to other people as well.

Other Information

66. 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..... 6/14/18