

The Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

Kevin SUTHERLAND

Support person present: No

1. My full name is Kevin Sutherland. My name was William Watson when I was born and during my time in care. I changed my name [REDACTED] when I was sixteen years old [REDACTED] before changing it to Kevin Sutherland which is how I am now known. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1990. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

2. I was born in Edinburgh and lived with my parents [REDACTED]. My mother's name was [REDACTED] and my dad was [REDACTED] [REDACTED].

Early life at home

3. I don't have a lot of memories from my childhood with my family but I remember it was really chaotic. My mother had a lot of mental health issues and my father had some alcohol issues. She constantly moved house a lot due to her illness and toxic relationship with my father. They got divorced when I was very young and my mother regained full custody.

4. The first time I went into a foster care placement was when I was around two and half years old. [REDACTED] placed there for a few months. My mother has since told me that it was because she had to go into hospital and my extended family refused to step in and take me even though they had the financial resources and space to

accommodate me. Their negligence therefore contributed to the abuse I suffered at that first placement.

5. When my mother got out of hospital she was moved into a one bedroom flat and the foster family along with the social work department refused to give [REDACTED] back to her because she only had one bedroom. This was the case for a considerable period of time. I understand their position, however, when the foster family decided to go on a cruise holiday, [REDACTED] suddenly just giving back to her regardless of her accommodation requirements. To me, this speaks volumes about their code of conduct and how [REDACTED] just blatantly exploited until they had other plans.
6. My father told me when I was older that he tried to be involved and to keep contact with me but my mother didn't allow that to happen. She effectively weaponised me against him so he didn't have any say or input into the decision making process of my care. My mother can be extremely narcissistic and still refuses to see a lot of her extreme dysfunctional behaviour to this day.
7. [REDACTED] went back to my mother after the first foster care placement. Life at home was still very chaotic. My mother was an alcoholic with her own mental health issues and was drinking constantly. We moved house about fifteen times around Edinburgh so I went to various different primary schools. I was in Liberton Primary school amongst many others.
8. My mother got involved with a man called [REDACTED] who was from Melton Mowbray in Leicestershire who had a previous conviction for physically assaulting a child in the bath. He was really violent towards me. There was a lot of physical, mental and emotional abuse from him. I don't remember anything sexual however I can't completely rule it out.
9. My mother was contacted by social work when she got involved with [REDACTED] and they informed her of the nature of his conviction and told her that he had been in prison for it. [REDACTED] subsequently put on the "child protection register." There was a constant flow of traffic of strangers in and out of our house,

including people from social services and all kinds of mental health workers who were there to engage with my mother and see how she was coping with life.

10. My mother carried on staying with [REDACTED] for a few months after the social work department contacted her about him. She would sneak me [REDACTED] over to [REDACTED]'s parents' house. They lived in an upstairs and downstairs flat and were quite religious, and tried to take us to Sunday school. I think something potentially happened with [REDACTED]'s father who was called [REDACTED]. I remember him taking me upstairs a couple of times and then my memory goes blank, which makes me think that he did something bad to me. I have tried a lot of therapy to unlock these memories but nothing has surfaced as yet.
11. I think [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] might have done something sexual to me, but I don't have any vivid memories of it. My behaviour did change a lot around that time and I started to behave strangely. I was urinating in my bedroom at night because I was that terrified to go downstairs to the toilet. I also cut a hole in the bottom of my bed that I would hide inside. Looking back I think that something really bad must have happened around this time as my behaviour clearly demonstrates that. None of this was ever addressed or explored by any social worker.
12. My mother reported [REDACTED] to the police for physically abusing me [REDACTED]. I remember the police speaking to me about him when I was a child. He and my mother eventually split up. I think my mother might have witnessed something sexual too because when I was older, she has said that she thought [REDACTED] did something to me. It is all secrets and lies with my family. My mother even told me as an adult that she suspects that my dad isn't my real dad. You cannot get the truth from that woman. She is a compulsive liar.
13. I went into foster care again and then into a children's home when I was seven years old for a few weeks. I was always back and forth between home and care placements because of the situation with my mother's mental health. I remember my mother driving me about in her car while she was drunk when I was about nine years old. There was a lot of neglect on her part.

14. There was also a lot of neglect from the social work who never acknowledged her behaviour even though they were so heavily involved with her. I feel that I should have been put forward and considered for adoption when I was young, as this would have potentially allowed me to grow up in a stable, loving environment, instead of being passed about all the various care homes and foster parents. The only reason this didn't happen was because my mother didn't want me to be adopted and wanted to have some kind of contact with me.
15. My mother's involvement would have been extremely difficult for any family who even wanting to foster me full time because she was a very manic person to deal with. Nobody would want to foster a child that came along with those strings attached. Social services in this case put her personal views and interests before my overall welfare and child development.

Early foster care placements

16. I was first put in foster care when I was about two and a half years old, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] placed in a house in Musselburgh and [REDACTED] there for a few months.
17. [REDACTED] looked after by a married couple, but I just remember the woman because she assaulted me very badly. I was wetting the bed and she would put me in freezing cold baths. I remember her holding me upside down by the legs and hanging me over a cold bath for a significant length of time before throwing me in the bath. I remember there was a lot of violence and she would hit me in the bath quite a lot and shout at me for wetting the bed. It was just pure abuse and torture and still very much haunts me to this day.
18. [REDACTED] that the couple had a biological son, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. I don't remember him because I was so young.

19. There is no mention of this foster care placement in my care records but [REDACTED] being there, as do other family members including my father who told me that the foster father worked for the royal mail as a postman. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
20. My mother had another manic episode so I ended up in foster care again when I was about seven or eight years old.
21. I remember staying with another foster family who had a house near the Meadows in Marchmont, Edinburgh, near the [REDACTED]. I was there for a couple of weeks when I was about seven or eight years old. Nothing happened there as far as I can remember, but there were issues with my behaviour there.

Going into Howdenhall Assessment Centre, Edinburgh

22. My behaviour was quite bad and I ran away from the foster carers in Marchmont one time. My mother was also still getting contact and I think the foster parents struggled with that because she was hard work. They couldn't cope with me so a decision was made to put me into Howdenhall.
23. I have always remembered the move from the foster carers to Howdenhall because it was done really deceitfully.
24. I remember social workers coming to pick me up and telling me that we were just going for something to eat with the foster parents even though I saw them pack all my things into the boot of the car. Even at my young age, I could see that they were being really dishonest with me.
25. The foster parents then drove me to Howdenhall and the social workers took me in.

Howdenhall, Edinburgh

26. I was taken to Howdenhall in 1998. I remember being taken inside by the social worker and being sat in a room with a group of people there. I was told that I was being placed with them, which I had already suspected. They didn't tell me how long I would be there. I remember trying to run back out to the car and being pulled back in by staff.

27. I don't remember much about being in Howdenhall. There was a game's room downstairs and bedrooms upstairs. There were four or five other kids in there at the time, and they all slept in the bedrooms upstairs. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

28. I slept on a mattress on the floor in the games room, downstairs. I think the staff were embarrassed about the situation because they were always saying to me that they would get me a bedroom soon, but that never happened. It was obviously a really poorly run environment.

29. I think I went to South House Primary School while I was there.

30. I remember a member of staff called Wendy and a male member of staff who was Australian.

Abuse in Howdenhall

31. I was sexually abused by an Australian male member of staff there. He was giving me a shower and I asked him where Australia was, and he pointed to my penis and told me if Australia was there then we were at the other side of the world, and he was touching my private parts while he spoke about it.

32. I don't remember anything else about him, except that I asked him a lot of questions about Australia. I can't remember what he looked like.

33. I remember getting restrained a lot on the stairs and it felt quite inappropriate.

Leaving Howdenhall

34. I was never told in advance when I would be leaving a care placement. It was always done spontaneously and I would just be taken away with no warning.
35. After a few weeks or a month of being in Howdenhall, I was put back in the care of my mother.

Life back at home

36. I was living with my mother in a flat at [REDACTED] in the Moredun area of Edinburgh. Social work were still involved and coming round, but the focus was always on my mother and how she was coping. Nobody asked me how I was and how I felt about living with her. My mother had been diagnosed as being bi-polar and she used that as an excuse for everything.
37. My mother's mother died in 2001 and my mum had a total breakdown. She became a full time alcoholic and couldn't cope with me. The rest of her family were nowhere to be seen and none of them stepped in to help [REDACTED]. They absolutely had zero interest with regards to [REDACTED] welfare.
38. I was then put into care full time, when I was ten years old. I went to a children's panel and was put on a supervision order.
39. I was taken to a place called South House Children's Home in Edinburgh. I was taken there in the middle of the night. I was just getting ripped from one place to another without being told where I was going or how long I would be there. I was only there for two nights until they found another placement for me in Greendykes.

Greendykes Young People's Centre, Edinburgh

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Leaving Greendykes

121. Towards the end of my time there, Jan Stringer decided to send me to Kibble Education and Care Centre. She told me about this during one of her visits. I was taken by staff to go and visit Kibble. I was told I would be going there and I didn't have any choice in the matter. I think I even spent a night there during one of the visits.

122. Jan Stringer made the decision to make me have some sort of psychological assessment before I could go into Kibble. She made out it was a mandatory thing. I

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Royal Edinburgh Hospital. Edinburgh

123. I was in the Royal Edinburgh Hospital for about three weeks when I was twelve years old in late 2003, most possible in [REDACTED]

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142. I was only there for three weeks, and like with all the other places, I don't actually remember leaving.

Leaving Greendykes, Edinburgh

143. I remember being at a children's panel in 2003. This was an important panel as it was regarding my transition to being placed in Kibble School. It was the usual set up with three panel members, my social worker, [Secondary Institutions - to be published later] the unit manager from Greendykes, staff from Kibble, staff from Royal Edinburgh Hospital and my mother all present. They were discussing which of the three places was the best for me to be in. [Secondary Institutions - to be published later]
[Secondary Institutions - to be published later] Jan Stringer, my social worker, was obviously very keen that I should be sent to Kibble because it had education and accommodation all in the one place, so the decision was made to send me there.

144. Looking back, It wouldn't surprise me the decision to send me to Kibble was a monetary one with money changing hands behind the scenes. I think this because it works under the umbrella of being a charity, is government funded and a private business.

The Kibble, Paisley

145. I was taken to Kibble in 2003, when I was twelve years old. The unit manager of [Secondary Institutions - to be published later] took me in his car. I didn't know how long I was going to be there because nobody told me. I ended up staying there until I left care at sixteen, although I was hardly ever in the place towards the end.
146. Kibble looked nice from the outside and had gardeners to keep it looking well maintained. The rooms for the kids were very basic with a single bed and sink in them. Kibble is a business enterprise and the financial turnover should have been reflected in what was provided to the kids, but it wasn't.

147. There were maybe a couple of hundred boys in Kibble when I was there, aged from twelve to about sixteen, but some could stay on until eighteen years old if they were privately funded. Most of the boys, if not all, were there because of social work referrals and were placed there under a supervision order. I asked a few boys in Kibble whether they had also been made to go to a hospital before going into Kibble, like I had, but they said they hadn't. Jan Stringer had lied to me about that being part of the process when I had asked her.
148. There were about seven or eight units with different names in different buildings. I remember the Clyde, North, West, Uist, the education centre and the management building.
149. I was put in the Uist unit when I first arrived there, which was a closed support unit that had three young people and three members of staff. I was there for a year then I was just told one day that I was moving to the North unit that day. The staff tried to make out it was a natural progression and the way things happened, but it was because a boy with complex needs came in who needed my room so I was just moved with no warning. I was put in the North unit, which was bigger and had about seven or eight boys and three or four members of staff.

Staff

150. A man called Graham Bell ran the place and I'm sure he drove a Bentley, or at least had access to one at some point whilst I was there. This again confirmed to me the benefits these people were reaping as a direct result of running this charity organisation for troubled children. Another senior management person was called John Harte, and his wife, Pauline Harte, was also in some sort of senior role in the education department.
151. Then it was the unit managers. You didn't see much of them because they had their own exclusive office in another building. Then there was the deputy managers in the units and general care staff.

152. The manager in the Uist unit at that time was Ruby Whitelaw when I was there for my first year there. A man called Sinclair Souter was my key worker for a short time before it changed to a woman called Jennifer Dobson then Trish Killoran. There was also a member of staff called **KDK** who worked in this unit who was a very shady character.
153. **KDH** was the [REDACTED] in the North unit before moving to another part of the business. [REDACTED] started working there too, as well as another one of [REDACTED]. After **KDH** moved on, a new manager called Margaret took his place for the North and South units. She was ok from what I can remember. I had no issues with her. A man called **KFE** was my key worker there, alongside a woman called **KFH** who was my co key worker. Nicola Ross became my key worker alongside **KFE** by the time I left. She also had a relative of some sort also working in the school. There was a nightshift worker called **KGK** in the North unit.
154. The whole place was oversaturated in nepotism with loads of married couples, partners of each other, sons, daughters all kinds of relatives getting through the door purely through their connection rather than there being a genuine interest in childcare. It is my belief that it was just easy access for a lot of them to gain a work placement. It is still very much like that to this day. You can see from their website how the staff are all connected.
155. A lot of the male staff that I encountered were former ex footballers or managers of local football clubs from [REDACTED] and so on, this applies to the likes of **KFE**, Steve Morrison who was a classroom support worker and countless others. This was another thing that just seemed to be common practice, all these links and connections to these small football clubs. A lot of staff gained employment this way and vice versa with other kinds of endeavours.
156. There were lots of staff there who got jobs through association. It was very clear to me that this was a brotherhood and they all seemed to know each other very well outside

of work and would constantly discuss their weekend plans quite openly. It was very incestuous and created weird dynamics in the place.

Routine at The Kibble, Paisley

157. I always had a room to myself when I was in there and the staff would come and wake you up in the morning. There were two shower rooms and you would go for a shower. Then you had breakfast and went to school in the education department where you had different periods for different classes. You finished school about 4.30 pm.
158. There was a whole kitchen of staff to prepare meals but they wouldn't support my decision to be vegetarian and they didn't really have any excuse not to as there were lots of places around the school where they could make and prepare food. There were issues around food here as well. I was living off eating sides again, likes peas and chips.
159. There were times when I had my own money while I was in Kibble, so when I did have money, I would go out and get something to eat myself or ordered a delivery.
160. I could have a bath or shower whenever I wanted and had privacy to do that. There were no issues around that.
161. The staff tried to get us to do chores, which I did a bit of in Uist unit like hoovering and tidying up. The staff tried to get me to do the same when I was moved to the North unit but I was not interested and didn't do it as I had a lot of my own stuff going on. I had decided I wanted to be a woman by this point and there was a lot of fallout from that, and then I started running away a lot, so any kind of routine or chores went out the window.
162. I was given a clothing allowance and pocket money, although they didn't call it pocket money.

Weekends and family contact

163. My dad came to visit me a couple of times in Kibble. I was allowed to go home every weekend and stay with my mother. Sometimes a staff member would take me to my mother's house and she would be completely drunk so they would take me back to the home again.

Schooling

164. There was an education department within Kibble where the classes were. There was also an off-site place where you could learn practical things like mechanics but that was of no interest to me. I was interested in computing but I wasn't allowed access to a computer Secondary Institutions - to be published later
165. A staff member called KFE went out of his way to debilitate me on the day that I was due to sit my standard grade exams. He caused such a big argument with me on the morning of my exams and I remember something got broken. He made me so irate that I ended up not sitting any of my exams. I do believe that was calculated and planned because of the deep resentment that the staff, and especially that man, had against me, which was mostly because I wanted to be recognised as a woman.
166. I don't know how I would have done it he had been able to calmly sit my exams but I never got the chance. It was for sure stolen from me through this man's prejudice and overall homophobic attitude towards me.
167. I didn't get any sex education or anything like that in care or at school.

Children's panels and social work contact

168. I was still going to children's panels once a year so I would have gone to about four of five while I was in Kibble. There would still be three panel members, my social worker, my key worker and mother there. It was still pointless me being there as I had no say

and they would always just continue the supervision order with all authority over my care handed over to Jan Stringer.

169. Jan Stringer continued to hold on to just my case. As far as she was concerned, there was a black mark against my name [Secondary Institutions - to be published later] and she abused this to keep a hold over me. Even my mother, who had her own issues, noticed this towards the end.

170. Jan would just decide whenever she wanted that I wasn't allowed to get home leave at the weekend. She would say it was [Secondary Institutions - to be published later] [Secondary Institutions - to be published later] It wasn't true but she never needed to prove it or show evidence. She just had to say it and I couldn't get home. I didn't even have a phone or access to one at the time she was accusing me of making these calls. She absolutely fabricated things just to get at me because we didn't have a positive relationship.

171. I had a social worker Caroline Rae just before I left care. She was only my social worker for about two months so I don't have a lot to say about her.

Healthcare

172. I wasn't on any medication when I came to Kibble, but I was introduced to diazepam tablets by a nightshift worker called [KGK] in the North unit. I'm not sure if she had them on prescription for herself or how she got them, but she would occasionally give me one or two when I was feeling that my anxiety was effecting me from getting to sleep. I didn't think much of it as she was quite nice with me and it was helping me rest, but looking back at this now, I am certain this was when my appetite, desire and addiction to drugs began and continued for fifteen years. .

173. [KGK] would offer me cigarettes so that I would go to the backdoor with her during her night shift and smoke with her. She said it got boring during the night working on her own and it was nice to have someone to chat with for a while. I had never smoked up until that point, but didn't see anything wrong with doing it because it gave me

someone to speak to as well. I can now see how unacceptable it was for a staff member to be encourage and cause a child in her care to start smoking.

174. I was taken to the dentist and got a brace when I was fourteen years old. There was an issue half way through the treatment and my brace had to come off. It was supposed to be put back on but for some reason it was never put back on so they just fell back to how they were.
175. I also took an overdose and ended up in Royal Alexandra Hospital for a few days at one point.

Abuse at Kibble

176. Quite soon after I was in Kibble, there was an incident in the Uist unit where a female member of staff sexually assaulted me. I don't remember the woman's name. I told the staff about this and the police were called to come in and speak to me about it. I asked to speak to the police alone but I wasn't allowed to. Trish Killoran sat with me the whole time as I spoke to them. I was quite new there at this point and I felt very intimidated by the staff as I had seen all kinds of abusive behaviour from them towards other kids, so I didn't say anything to the police about it. I think the staff managed to get me to tell the police there was no validity to my claims and the incident was noted down and recorded as being total lies so no further action was taking by the police. The female staff member in question stayed working there but was moved to another unit. I was punished by this woman as a result of saying this.
177. In my first year there, when I was in the Uist unit, I nearly got stabbed by another boy called [REDACTED]. I had said something he didn't like and he picked up a knife and got quite close to me with the knife right up to my face. Luckily, there was a member of staff behind him at the time who was able to disarm him. [REDACTED] was in Kibble for stabbing a girl in [REDACTED], Edinburgh in 2000, which I knew about so it was really scary when he did that to me. He had been violent towards other boys in Kibble before this incident as well but had been allowed to remain there.

178. The police weren't called after this incident as far as I know, which was very confusing because he had tried to stab me and would have done so if staff hadn't intervened. Instead, I was made to go into my room and stay there as if I was equally to blame even though I hadn't done anything to provoke him. The staff focus was entirely on getting [REDACTED] out of Kibble. He was shipped out after that incident and put in a secure unit. He is now in jail forever on an indeterminate sentence.
179. That incident was really traumatic and had a significant effect on me. I knew [REDACTED] had been in there for attempted murder and he just tried to do the same to me but nobody asked how I was after it or did anything to help me. Sinclair Souter was my key worker at the time and he didn't speak to me. The rest of the staff tried to make out that they had handled it by getting him out of Kibble, but they had already wanted him out.
180. I wanted to speak to my mother after the incident but couldn't. I had no phone privileges [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later Sometimes I would have to break into rooms to use the phone and phone reception, get an outside line so I could phone my mother or a close family friend called [REDACTED] to let them know what was happening.
181. Most of the other boys in Kibble were there for serious offending and I don't think I should have been in there with them. They were all from tough backgrounds with gang cultures. They fought amongst themselves all the time but they mostly left me alone. I think because I was always embroiled in battles with the staff about how badly the place was run.
182. One time we were taken swimming to Time Capsule and there was an incident where the staff wouldn't let one of the boys called [REDACTED], who was about fourteen or fifteen years old, wear goggles in the pool. I wondered what that was about and asked [REDACTED] and she told me that it was because [REDACTED] was in Kibble for doing something sexual to younger kids. Her exact words were that the staff didn't want him to wear goggles in the pool in case he perverted on other kids.

183. There was a member of staff called KDK who worked in the Uist unit who didn't like [REDACTED] and would threaten him. KDK would wait until no other staff were around and go up to [REDACTED] and pretend to punch him and threaten him. [REDACTED] would be shivering and cowering away. Then KDK would be saying to me that [REDACTED] was a just a "sick fuck."
184. I don't think I should have been put in a place with people like that but I also don't think the staff should have been talking about the kids like that. [REDACTED] died when I was in Kibble from either an epileptic fit or suicide.

Physical abuse

185. KDH [REDACTED] used to shout a lot and be violent towards the boys. I saw him attacking kids a lot by punching and kicking them. I saw him a few times with his arm around boy's necks while someone else was restraining them. KDH [REDACTED] was a big guy and was maybe in his early fifties. He was quite intimidating towards me as well although he never hit me.
186. A lot of the staff were really violent in the way they restrained kids. I would see five or six of them just come from nowhere and a group of them would launch themselves on a boy half their size. I would see them holding boys down on the floor, punching and kicking them with extreme force, while strangling them with their arm around the boy's neck. I remember seeing a member of staff standing with his foot on a boy's arm as he was being held down by about five other staff members. It was too much. It would only take about two of those guys to restrain a boy, not five or six.
187. What got to me was the expressions of delight on their face and the comments they made to the boy they were restraining. They would make jokes that they could restrain the boy all day. They would swap out so one would go away for a cup of tea while another took over and they would laugh and joke about it while holding the boy down. It was sadistic. I felt they were horrible to the kids because something bad happened in their own lives or they were just having a bad day and taking it out on these children.

188. I saw them drag the boys into rooms and close the doors to beat them, and boys would have black eyes and marks round their necks when you next saw them. The staff involved in the violence were KFE [REDACTED], KDH [REDACTED], KFD [REDACTED] and a couple of ex footballers from St Mirren's FC. There were never any managers around when these attacks happened.
189. I would sometimes speak to the staff afterwards and ask them what that was about. I remember speaking to KFE [REDACTED] after seeing an attack on a boy and he completely denied it had even happened. He didn't offer an explanation or even play it down, he just said that I had imagined it and it hadn't happened at all, so you couldn't even have a discussion about it. It was total gaslighting and the best way for them to get away with it. Instead of acknowledging it and arguing it was justified, they could all just say it never happened at all and make me look crazy. They did this throughout my stay there.
190. I don't remember every violent situation I saw because there was so many. I remember seeing a boy called [REDACTED] from Aberdeen getting attacked by staff. I also saw a boy called [REDACTED] in the North unit get attacked.
191. I would speak to some of the boys afterwards and I would tell them that they should report their beatings because the staff were so violent. The boys were sadly used to it from the backgrounds they came from and would say that they wouldn't grass, and the staff knew that they had this mentality and took full advantage of it. These boys had probably come from a background of violence and the staff treated them with violence too. I didn't have that mind-set and the staff knew that so I think that protected me in some ways. They used emotional and psychological warfare with me, instead, to break me down.
192. I was never physically abused but I was terrified from seeing how violent the staff were to other boys. I had such a level of fear that I never gave them an excuse to lay hands on me. There was a clear change in my behaviour because of this and I was never restrained once in Kibble, [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later

193. The police were rarely at Kibble, [Secondary Institutions - to be published later] because the staff didn't call them. They just battered the kids instead. The police only ever came when they were bringing back someone who had ran away. They could probably see injuries on the boys, as could the managers, but I don't know if they ever asked about it. Even if they did, staff could explain it away by saying the boys fought amongst themselves, which was something that happened.

Restricted outside contact

194. I had a mobile phone when I first went in and I used it to record something that a staff member was saying to me. It wasn't anything really serious that would have amounted to anything criminal but backed up what I was saying about what the staff were like. The staff then took the phone off me and it disappeared and was never found again. I was also not allowed to use the phone in Kibble unless I was supervised.

195. I wasn't allowed to use the computer in Kibble unless I was supervised. The staff thought I was some kind of supersonic whizz kid who could do anything on the internet. I think they thought I would abuse technology [Secondary Institutions - to be published later] [Secondary Institutions - to be published later]. One time I was just browsing normal shopping sites online and I was called into a big sit down meeting with staff and management to ask what I was up to. They were implying that I was up to something just because I was looking at some shopping sites. I don't know what they thought I was doing. I think they just didn't understand me at all and were forever taking stabs in the dark about my character because they weren't used to dealing with someone like me. They viewed my intelligence and ability to think for myself as a threat to them and the way they ran the institution. They considered me to be a whistle-blower and their only protection was the fact I was a kid and it was unlikely that I would be believed without and hard evidence.

196. When I was in the Uist unit in my first year, a staff member called [KDK] would always take me aside and ask me if I knew how to make money. [Secondary Institutions - to be published later] [Secondary Institutions - to be published later]

Secondary Institutions - to be published I think he thought I was really clever and some kind of criminal mastermind who knew how to make money, which was really weird because

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

197. KDK would drive me home to my mother's house and back to Kibble at the weekends and he would always be talking to me about dodgy dealings he was involved in, and how much money he was making. He always had burner phones and would ask me what the best sim cards were to use to cover his tracks. I was only twelve or thirteen years old and had no idea about the deep details of these things, but he was convinced I did. He kind of took me under his wing even though he was abusive and threatening towards other boys because he thought I was clever and he could make money out of me somehow. He had this weird respect for me and I don't know where it came from.
198. I wasn't allowed to use the computers in Kibble because the staff thought I would abuse it, but one weekend, KDK took me into the management building and sat me in front of a computer and told me to do what I wanted. I don't know what he expected me to do. It was like he expected me to just jump on the computer and magically start committing all these massive frauds at the click of a button that he could be complicit in and benefit from. It was really weird and I knew that at the time but I was just glad that he wasn't being abusive towards me like he was towards other boys. He was only nice to me because he had an incentive and thought I had ideas to make money, which I didn't.
199. I spoke to my father recently and he remembers KDK from when he visited me at Kibble. He said KDK would speak to him about money and dodgy dealings. My father has a chequered past but even he found it weird at the time, and also looking back, that a kid's care worker would be talking to him about things like that. It was all very shady and questionable.

Psychological and emotional abuse

200. The staff didn't seem at all qualified and had a total lack of etiquette. They swore a lot and it seemed like they had just been plucked off the street to do the job. I would see the change in them when managers were around and they would put the mask on and speak properly in front of them, and then I would see the mask quickly removed as soon as they left.
201. When I was about fourteen years old, I went through a phase where I convinced myself that I wanted to live as a girl [REDACTED]. I would wear some types of girl's clothes, make up and do my nails. I don't know how it happened but I was convinced of it. It divided the staff. Some were ok with it and some weren't. Some staff thought it was a manipulation tactic to get out of the school but it wasn't because it carried on for about nine months after I left the school.
202. [KFE] [REDACTED] was ok with me until I made it known that I wanted to live as a woman. He was really against it and turned on me, and made really nasty comments about it. He was a nasty piece of work. There were a few times he would come at me as if he was going to attack me but never actually hit me.
203. I used to get on with a woman called [KFH] [REDACTED] who was from Anniesland, and got called [KFH] [REDACTED]. Then I saw her going into rooms with another male member of staff called [KFD] [REDACTED] and I remember mentioning something about it to her. She said that nothing was going on and he wasn't her type but her attitude towards me changed drastically after that. There may not have been anything going on but her attitude towards me changed after I said that.
204. [KFH] [REDACTED] and [KFE] [REDACTED] got me into the office one day and verbally ambushed me about my wanting to live as a woman. They both viciously tore me down to pieces, telling me how I was a male and I could never be a female. [KFH] [REDACTED] was highly vocal about it, and even pointed to herself and said that she was a real woman and I would never be one. This was had to hear because my feelings were very real to me at the time.

205. I was basically held hostage in that room while they told me I would never biologically be a woman, and that I was in an all boys' school and wasn't going to be allowed to dress in any female things, and they wouldn't have the other boys in there being made to feel uncomfortable because of me. This argument about other boys feeling uncomfortable was baseless because the other boys weren't interested in what I was doing. I knew this because I had asked them about it.
206. They sat me in the office for about four hours and mentally water boarded me in to trying to come round to their belief system, which was extreme mental torture. They weren't religious or anything, they were just nasty, cruel individuals who were trying to completely break me down and had me reduced to tears the entire time. I had never once cried in that place before then. It was without a doubt an extremely traumatic episode. It was so degrading and dehumanising and I still think about it to this day.
207. [KFH] was appointed as my full time key worker after that. I remember questioning this and asking why this decision had been made because we clearly didn't like each other, but now she was managing me more closely. It didn't make sense, and I think it was just done to hurt me intentionally. It was complete psychological warfare in there because they wouldn't raise their hands to me or do anything that would leave evidence.
208. [KFH]'s behaviour after that was really weird. She would drag me around with her while she ran errands into Glasgow to pick things up for the school or whatever she was doing. She wanted to keep me close as a punishment, like torture, because she knew I didn't like her after the incident in the office with her and [KFE]. I even had to go with her once when she went to get her hair done, which was just completely unnecessary. There was no reason for me to be with her for this, or for her to even be doing that when she was at her work. Looking back, I think her angle was to smear it in my face that she was a woman and could get her hair done and I couldn't. It was constant mind games.

209. There was an English teacher called Lesley McKitterick there who I got on with fairly well because she was nice. I would spend most of my time in her class in the education department towards the end because I didn't find other classes interesting. The staff then started calling her over to the unit and asking her questions about what we talked about and asking her why I took a liking to her over them. I know this because she told me and even she found it strange. I think the staff were trying to turn her against me.
210. I was also close to Ann Robertson, the Home Economics teacher, and spent some time in her class too. She was nice but I think things turned sour with her towards the end of my time there. After a while she said I wasn't allowed to go to her class except when I was supposed to be there for Home Economics. She was off with me after attending meetings with staff and I never had a relationship with her towards the end.
211. The staff would have meetings on Wednesdays where they discussed all the boy's cases, including mine. They would discuss me wanting to be recognised as a woman and. A member of care staff called Anne would be there and would tell the rest of them that I needed to be supported in my decision, but she was the minority the rest of them were totally against it. She would come back and tell me what an issue the rest of the staff were making of it all. She was the only person in my unit that understood me wanting to be seen as a woman. She was relatively new to the care system and I don't think she liked the way the staff treated me and their general attitude towards the kids. She left soon after and I fully believe it was because she didn't like the way the staff were towards me and other kids.
212. The staff would have full meetings to sit and discuss me wanting to wear makeup or false nails or whatever. I would listen in to the meetings sometimes and I also knew what Anne told me. I will admit that I probably did antagonise them with it a little bit because I could see that their reaction to it was wrong. They used to say that they weren't paid enough to deal with me. They used to talk about money all the time which was inappropriate.
213. The staff were really small minded and completely unqualified for the jobs they were doing. They probably reacted negatively to my choice because of the backgrounds

they came from themselves and had never been around anything like that. That said, strangely enough, the boys in Kibble, who came from tough backgrounds, were always fighting and were affiliated with gangs, had no issue with me walking about dressed as a girl. I think they just thought I was so off the grid from them that they just left me to it. I found it really back to front that those boys could tolerate this part of me but the adult staff members couldn't.

Running away and sexual abuse

214. I started running away when I was about fourteen years old and going back to Edinburgh. I was running away and staying away for weeks at a time. I made friends with a guy called KGL who was in his early twenties. He had been my mum's old neighbour and had lived round the corner from her when she lived at [REDACTED]. He now lived at [REDACTED] and I would stay with him sometimes for up to two weeks at a time.
215. KGL would get me drunk and make me have sex with him. He would blackmail me by saying he would send me back to Kibble if I didn't. I know that he abused somebody else as well because when I went to the local supermarket with him one time, a man came up and grabbed KGL by the throat and asked him why he was teaching his little brother to masturbate. That was the actual words that the man used, KGL had obviously been doing things with this man's little brother.
216. KGL was also the person who introduced me to telephone adult chatlines and would get me to chat to these guys over the phone. He would then make me believe that they were all going to come round and have sex with me, which they didn't but it was scary for me to believe that.
217. I would be away for a few days or weeks at a time and would always go back to Kibble of my own accord, or I would go to my mum's and get picked up by the police from there and they would take me back. The police never once asked why I was running away and so I never said. They just wanted to know where I was so that they could secure a charge on someone for harbouring me. One time I asked them if I could go

back into my mum's house to get some of my stuff and they said I could only do this if I admitted to them that my mum knew I was there a short time prior to their arrival. They were solely focused on trying to press charges on someone, but never about my welfare or my state of being.

218. When I would get back to Kibble, the staff would ask me where I had been and make a joke of it all. They would ask in front of other kids and it was all light hearted. They would joke that they could go home early if I ran away and that they would still get paid. They didn't try to get to the bottom of why I was running away or where I was. There was just zero interest in any of that.
219. Another boy called [REDACTED] ran away a lot and was always brought back by the police after getting in trouble. I overheard the staff telling him that it would be good if he ran away on a particular day and time when they were on shift so they could get away home early. There was no punishment for running away because, as the staff put it, it suited them because they could leave early and it was less paper work for them to deal with.
220. When I was still fourteen years old, I started blackmailing men on these telephone chatlines, including a police officer and a Procurator Fiscal. I made a lot of money from it. They would be openly talking on these services about sexual things they wanted to do with children and I would record them. I would then blackmail them with it. I was going back to Kibble with thousands of pounds worth of stuff including clothes, cosmetics and things. This was just before I turned fifteen years old.
221. When staff asked me how I got the money, I never told them. They would tease me about being an escort even though that was not something I had ever actually mentioned. They thought the idea of a child being an escort was funny. It was all a joke to them. They didn't do anything to try and find out where I was, who I was with or how I was getting the money. They didn't get the police involved to find out where I was or to investigate how I was getting the money.

222. Instead of being concerned about me, staff stole my money and things from me and kept it for themselves. On one occasion, around £900 cash that staff had taken off me to keep in the safe in the staff office, went missing. Another time, I saw ^{KFH} with a bottle of perfume which I came back with and ^{KFE} wearing a pair of Prada sunglasses that had gone missing from my room. When I questioned them, they would ask me where I got the stuff from. I did have receipts for the things I bought but I couldn't prove to them where the money was coming from, so the staff never returned my money or things. Sometimes, when I would come back after being away, staff would ask if I had any money. I said I wasn't bringing anything more back of value because they would just steal it from me, and they laughed about this.
223. I was still running away from Kibble. Sometimes I was getting chauffeur driven cars to pick me up from Kibble late at night so I could easily just get away. The staff could have found out where I was going by contacting the company the cars belonged to. There was CCTV camera so they could see me leave, but they just weren't bothered. It was like the door was held open by them for me to just disappear whenever I wanted because they didn't care about me or where I was going.
224. I was still staying away for two and three weeks at a time, but now I was checking myself into hotels. I stayed various places in and around Edinburgh. I had a room at Ricks Bar on Frederick Street in Edinburgh for about two weeks when I was fifteen years old. I had parties there and was underage drinking. I also stayed in the Glasshouse Hotel on a number of occasions for weeks here and there. I don't even know how I managed to do these things and get myself into these predicaments. Where were the adults?
225. My case was put in front of a secure panel to review whether I met the criteria to be placed in secure accommodation because I was running away so much. That was denied. Looking back, I find this a bizarre decision given that I was running away for weeks on end, coming back with lots of money and the staff thought I was selling myself. I don't understand why I didn't meet the criteria to put me in a secure unit for my own safety, even though it was not something I would have wanted at that time.

The safe secure unit centre in Kibble was only just getting built before I left so maybe there was just no space anywhere else.

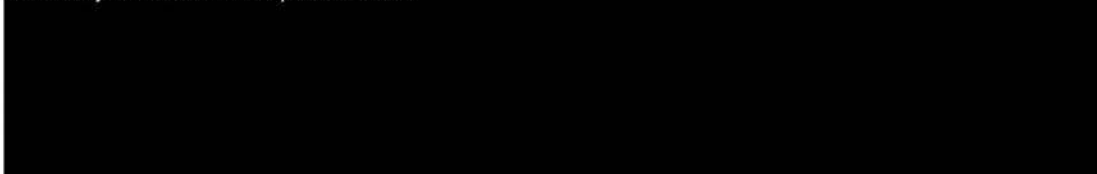
- 226. It is important to acknowledge that children are a commodity to these institutions. They had no incentive to remove my placement from there as they were getting payed thousands of pounds a months from the local authority, regardless of if I was there all the time or not.
- 227. Towards the end, I was spending more and more time away from Kibble than I was actually being there.

Overdose

- 228. When I was around fifteen years old, the staff found me with a phone so it was taken off me. I had somehow come by [REDACTED] but I can't remember how. I think it might have been my mother's that I had taken back with me. I took an overdose with [REDACTED]. My head was all over the place with the physical abuse I was witnessing at Kibble, the treatment I was getting for wanting to live as a woman, an alcoholic mother who didn't care about me, and the sexual abuse I was suffering at the hands of KGL [REDACTED] when I was running away.

- 229. I ended up in the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley for two or three days. I remember

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- 230. When I came back to Kibble, it was recorded in my notes as a fake attempt at suicide. I remember reading my file over with my key worker, KFE [REDACTED], which we would sometimes do. That didn't make sense to me because I wouldn't have been held in hospital for days if I was just pretending. At this time, KFE [REDACTED] actually threatened my life by saying that: "me or someone else will suicide you," which meant that he or

someone else could kill me and make it look like suicide. This was truly shocking but by that point the things these people said to me didn't surprise me.

Leaving The Kibble

231. I left Kibble in 2007 when I was sixteen years old. I was taken to a children's panel in the [REDACTED] after I turned sixteen in the [REDACTED] KFE [REDACTED] and Nicola Ross who were both my key workers at this point were there. The panel lifted the Order so I was no longer a child in care.
232. As I left, KFE [REDACTED] threw my bag at me, laughed at me and joked about me ending up in the gutter and not making anything of my life or myself. He and Nicola walked away sniggering. That's the last time I ever saw them.
233. There was a throughcare and aftercare service offered to me and they got me a flat in the Grassmarket in Edinburgh but it didn't work out and I was asked to leave. There was a lot of conversations and discussions going around my lifestyle and how they basically felt that I didn't need the accommodation. Assumptions were made and I ended up leaving. I fortunately had enough money at this time so I wasn't really that concerned about it, and the system wasn't that bothered about looking after me either.

Reporting of abuse in Kibble

234. I put in a lot of complaints about KFH [REDACTED] while I was in Kibble about the way that she was treating me. I didn't just sit back and take it all the time. I was constantly complaining and then I would be called to the unit to have mediation type appointments with the staff and her. KFH [REDACTED] would deny anything she ever said or did, and would say I was imagining it, that I was being vindictive and it was all in my head. She was gaslighting me, but there wasn't as much awareness about that type of psychological abuse back then and that terminology didn't really exist. She was definitely making me out to be a liar when I wasn't. As an adult now, I feel like I could have explained

things better back then if I had the right terminology and language, but that is a disadvantage that children have.

235. Whenever I really made noise and complained about the food or the way I was being treated for wanting to be a woman, I would always get met with silence and nothing was ever done about it. I always demanded to speak to Graham Bell, who was the Chief Executive at the time of me being there, but it never happened. I think all the time I was there I only got to speak to him once and when I did, I told him about the way I was being treated by KFE [REDACTED] and other staff, including how stuff was going missing from my room and it must have been staff because only they had keys. He would ask me how I got the things in the first place, which wasn't the point. He wasn't very nice. He was very aloof and dismissive and clearly condoned this sort of behaviour.
236. At some time during the summer of 2004, a staff member tried to blow the whistle about the treatment of kids in Kibble and the systematic violent abuse that was going on. I remember reading about it at the time in the local newspapers. I don't remember who the staff member was but all other staff members just immediately smeared and discredited it. I recall a letter was sent out from Kibble by Graham Bell, to all the parents of the kids in care saying that what the staff member was saying was complete lies. The truth of what the whistle-blower was saying resonated with me when I was reading the article.
237. I think Kibble got away with so much because their antennae seemed to spread so far and wide that they had affiliations with people in high positions. High profile people visited the education centre when I was there like Billy Connolly. They also have close links and connections to the duke of Edinburgh awards. Princess Anne and Prince Edward have both visited the school over the years. I think the fact that Kibble has been able to align themselves with these people and made the whole charity veneer logo work very well for themselves. This has allowed them to always maintain and look highly respectable, so they have always dodged any real in depth investigation. In truth, this is one very lucrative financially successfully run business that makes its

money off the back of broken children who they have broken further with no mercy whatsoever.

Life after care

238. I had a throughcare and aftercare worker available to me when I left but I didn't make use of it and nobody tried to stay in contact with me from the care system. I just continued doing in respect to the blackmailing. I lived with my mum for a short period but then started living in hotels and apartments, and at times got my own place. I changed my name [REDACTED] for a while. I came away from the idea of wanting to be a woman after a while and changed my name back to Kevin Sutherland.
239. I met ^{KGL} [REDACTED] again after leaving care, when I was about sixteen and a half years old. He apologised for the things he had done to me. This showed that he knew that he was abusing me, blackmailing me and forcing me to have sex with him under the element of fear.
240. I was friends for short time with a guy called [REDACTED] who was from around the Falkirk area, who was in his late twenties or early thirties. He was nearly ten years older than me. He got involved in the blackmailing as well. He was the very first person I ever told my abuse story to. I told him about the grooming from ^{KGL} [REDACTED] and how he blackmailed me into having sex with him.
241. I reported ^{KGL} [REDACTED] to the police when I was seventeen years old and [REDACTED] came with me to the police station. [REDACTED] and I later fell out and he went and befriended my ^{KGL} [REDACTED] just to get back at me. He even gave the police a statement against me saying I was lying about the abuse by ^{KGL} [REDACTED]. I found this behaviour completely conniving and to this day, is the lowest trait I have ever encountered in another human being. I think people like him are worse than abusers. He knowingly befriended an abuser and helped him. [REDACTED] was an abuser enabler and had interest in young boys as well. Towards the end of our friendship, he was quite open with me about how he

had underage sex with a former partner called [REDACTED] and had dated and spoke to many others online. This whole situation massively impacted me going forward in life with regards to trust so I always made a point to never mention the name of my abuser to anyone again, including partners, even when I was in long term relationships.

242. I met ^{KFH} [REDACTED] again at 29 Private Members Club in Glasgow one New Year. I think it was 2008. She was drunk and didn't recognise me. I got into a conversation with her about Kibble and about myself. She didn't realise it was me she was talking to and she started saying really personal and disgusting things about me. She was saying that I was a total fuck up who used to steal make up out of her bag, which wasn't true. She mentioned the whole gender identity crisis and said some downright deplorable things. She said that my mother, [REDACTED], was a head case and a low life, and they would sometimes take me over to her house at weekends but have to bring me back because she was nothing but a worthless drunk.
243. After ^{KFH} [REDACTED] sat and slated me for nearly an hour, I left the club. I was outside with some friends waiting to be picked up and then I revealed to her who I was. She was clearly astonished, considering all that she had said, and then tried to backtrack but I just left her standing in the street.
244. I had always known what the staff in Kibble thought about me, meeting ^{KFH} [REDACTED] and hearing what she said, confirmed it for me. As far as she was concerned, she was telling a complete stranger about my personal struggles and circumstances as well as putting her own judgemental twist on them. It also confirmed how they had no obligation to any kind of confidentiality about the children they abused and worked with. I wonder how many other people she has spoken to like that about me or other kids. It also made me aware of why so many people over the years have said things to me about my time in care that they couldn't possibly have known unless members of care staff had been talking about me.
245. The blackmailing caught up with me when I was nineteen years old and I ended up in court. I pled guilty and was sentenced to 45 months in prison. I was in Saughton Prison

in Edinburgh prison for around three months before being moved to Polmont Young Offenders Institution.

246. At one point, I was put in the same unit as the sex offenders in Polmont because I was a vulnerable prisoner. I really resented that because I was jailed for crimes against these people, yet I was being placed in a unit with some of them. I did complain about that because I thought it was wrong but nothing was done, so I decided to start releasing information to the media regarding sex offenders and their liberation and release dates. This caused enormous amounts of backlash from the management in the prison and how I was dealt with, but eventually it resulted in them splitting the hall into two sections. One side was for vulnerable inmates and the other was just for sex offenders. I felt that was essential as I didn't want to be in daily close proximity to child murderers and rapists. I also complained about how I thought sex offenders were being treated better than the other inmates, but all of that is just common knowledge.
247. I was put into the section of the jail that was for vulnerable prisoners. One of the only reasons for that was because the media had reported on me previously living as a woman, and that could have made me a target for potential bullying in there.
248. There was one incident that took place when I was there, when another inmate called [REDACTED] came onto me and tried to kiss me and grope me, before someone came to the door. I didn't actually know at that time what he was in for but later found out he was a sex offender. I reported this to the police at the time because I wasn't just going to accept it. That was how things are, when it came to sexual abuse or harassment.
249. Apart from this incident, I actually found the young offenders institution to be a walk in the park compared to being in the actual care system. I find it truly shocking and unbelievable that the environment that was designed to punish me overall treated me better than the environment that was designed to care for me. That statement itself says how much we are failing children in these deeply corrupt institutions.

250. I got out of Polmont when I was 21 years old after serving 22 months of my 45 month sentence. I lived with my mother again for a very short while.
251. This is when I became an escort because a lot of my friends were doing this line of work. It was inevitable really because I needed to make money and wanted a certain standard of life and had no qualifications to do anything else. I broke away from that about two and half years ago and don't do anything related to the adult industry anymore. I realised I have more to offer than that. It was not serving my higher purpose in life.
252. I have in the past set up businesses and delivery franchises, but things break down because I can't get over the significant traumas and the medication addiction that I'm still trying to come off. My mental health is not good and I have been doing nothing with my life recently, apart from focusing on this Inquiry, speaking to the police and trying to get some level of justice and accountability for all that I have been through regarding the care system.
253. I tried to get access to a refuge in England ones when I was 28 years old and I got denied access because Police Scotland said something to the men's refuge that prevented them from wanting to give me a placement, even though I have never been convicted of any violent offence or anything domestic abuse related. Once again, this was the typical police conduct that I was used to. When I was around fifteen years old I was having underage sex with two separate police officers at different times that I had met online. There was also a potential police officer and Procurator Fiscal amongst the people I was blackmailing. My whole life has been a complete spider web so it is not always easy to ascertain the reason behind why certain people say things about me or why they act the way they do with me.

Case investigation and press reporting

254. My blackmailing case got a lot of media coverage at the time for a number of reasons, one of which was because former acquaintances of mine had sold stories to the Daily Record trying to affiliate me with Tam Paton, who was the ex-manager for Bay City

Rollers. People told the paper that I had told them that I was going to parties at this man's house and saying that I was going to blackmail him for millions. These were made up lies. I have never met the man in my life, and had no connection to him. None of it was true but the paper put the story out. These articles were removed from their website a long time ago.

255. I read in another news article that I was sent to Kibble [Secondary Institutions - to be published later] [Secondary Institutions - to be published later] which wasn't true. It had already been decided I was going to Kibble and that wasn't the reasons for sending me there.

256. The journalist, Alex Dowdalls, who was also a former friend of mine, was behind all of the coverage my story got. He wrote that I started my "sick scam" seven years ago, referring to when I was [Secondary Institutions - to be published later]. He called me "twisted" and made it sound like I had been spinning off all kinds of scams for years, when that wasn't true. [Secondary Institutions - to be published later] it had nothing to do with the blackmailing case that came years later. The two things were not connected. The language he used to describe me in his articles further smeared me and took the story in a direction that had nothing to do with my conviction for extortion.

257. The media also said that I had set up my own company and had my own telephone chatlines, which I was proactively advertising in magazine and newspapers to lure people in, so that I could then blackmail them. This is not true and not what I did. I went on to a telephone chatline service that was already in existence, which is run by a company called [redacted]. It is still very much in full operation today and has never once been investigated. I used that chatline to speak over the phone to these paedophiles who were already using the chatline. None of this had any connection to the internet or any other kind of digital service. My lawyer made it very clear in court that I used phone-in chatline services and didn't set up a company myself, yet the media kept spinning these lies that I set up my own company was advertising to lure and entice people to it. They made the whole thing out to be much more calculated and organised than it actually was. I think they did this deliberately.

258. The director of the chatline company, [REDACTED], is a man called [REDACTED]. The company has made millions through this paedophile playground, but the name of the company is never mentioned in any of the newspaper articles. I definitely think the chatline company was pulling strings to distance themselves because they don't want to be investigated for allowing paedophiles to congregate on their services. I have reported them to the police and Ofcom for allowing this to go on unchecked. Nobody has done anything about investigating them.
259. I pled guilty in court to nine counts of extortion and one of attempted extortion. After the court case, Detective Chief Inspector Richard Thomas made a statement saying that Lothian and Borders Police would not tolerate crimes that target people using their gender or sexual orientation. This was another very misleading angle to my case because gender and sexual orientation had nothing to do with why I was blackmailing these men. I was targeting people who actually had said things about wanting to abuse and harm children. I believe the police spun this angle intentionally to mislead people because it put the gay community against me as well.
260. I have a copy of my indictment and I know the names of the people involved, and they are people involved within the legal establishment. I believe that is why nobody wanted to investigate it properly, and why it was imperative to them to smear me as much as possible instead. They police and press fail to mention so many important points, like the fact that I was child when I started doing this. The media has also never wanted to cover the full story.
261. There is so much corruption around my story and lies that have been spun. I don't even know the extent of the cover up going on here myself. I had to fight with the Daily Record to get certain things taken offline about me that weren't true but some of it is still there. I also fought to get things taken off YouTube about me.
262. I have only just recently started to look into things again because I will be reviving my story and putting the full truth out there, and not just a watered down unreported on version of events.

Impact

263. I did meet some nice people in care but sadly it is the bad things that I remember more because of the trauma of it all. I was grown up by the age of twelve because of the neglect by the care system.
264. My decision to be vegetarian was not supported Secondary Institutions - to be published later or Kibble, so for years I lived off eating side portions of mashed potato, vegetables or tins of soup. I wasn't fed properly and I think that affected my physical development. I remember comparing my wrist size with my ten year old niece when I was an adult and they were the same size.
265. My teeth were completely neglected when I was in care and they were a mess by the time I left. I have had to spend thousands on getting them straightened and then getting full veneers as an adult
266. Academically, I failed miserably. I was moved around a lot of care placements and schools. KFE in Kibble caused such issues on the days of my exams that I never sat them. I ended up just working for myself as an adult. I don't know how I have managed to do the things I have done as an adult without a decent education.
267. I have a lot of anger against the care staff, police, social work, and the whole system who were involved in supposedly caring for me, because nobody did anything to help me, even when I told them that abusive things were happening when I was in care. It wasn't that I was shy to speak. I was vocal but nobody was listening. I was always painted as a villain when I was in care. I was just painted as a bad child with psychological problems whenever I tried to speak up about anything that was happening. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

268. When I was fourteen years old, I got fed up of the fear, intimidation and abuse in care. I got fed up of being the one portrayed in a constant bad light by care staff so I was running away from Kibble all the time because I didn't want to be there. With all the different forms of abuse I have suffered in multiple care institutions over Edinburgh and Glasgow, the psychological rape by the staff in Kibble was on another level and there is not day that goes by that I don't think about that place. It was absolute hell and they single headedly drove me into the hands of a paedophile.
269. That led me to start staying with KGL just to have somewhere to stay. He then groomed me, sexually abused me and introduced me to the telephone chatline services and to blackmailing men. I started blackmailing men who said they wanted to do sexual things with kids. I was making money, which I was taking back to Kibble and nobody investigated where I was getting the money from. Instead they stole from me and ridiculed me for being an escort at a time when I wasn't. They weren't concerned about my safety or welfare at any point under their care. My treatment in care and not wanting to be there led to me being abused by KGL and getting into blackmailing, which led to a criminal conviction, a prison sentence and widespread bad press, which continues to negatively impact my life to this day.
270. All of this stemmed from the abuse and neglect I suffered in care. If I was being looked after properly in a safe environment by decent humans who cared for me, rather than people who saw me only as a commodity to fulfil a placement and just a problem, then I would never have fallen into the hands of KGL and the rest wouldn't have ever happened. It is all intertwined.
271. I was quiet about my abuse for a while because nobody believed me in care, then the first friend I confided in went on to befriend my abuser, so I didn't trust anyone. I speak out openly about my experiences now though because so much has been said about me and I want to set the record straight. I talk about it openly on social media. Some people get it but I feel like I am being judged by a lot of people who just don't

understand. People seem to listen but don't really hear me. They don't understand all the things that have happened to me in care, the grooming and how that affected me. No fourteen year old boy just wakes up one day and decides to start blackmailing men or know how to even go about something like that. Everything that has happened to me and the things I have done are all connected.

272. When I came out of prison, I started escorting because I needed to make money and live a good standard of life. I had no other alternative. I had a criminal conviction, I had been smeared and discredited by the police and media, I was damaged by the care system and had no qualifications. The system had made it so I couldn't get any kind of conventional job at that time.
273. As awful as it all is, and as much as the blackmailing and escorting has damaged me, I also think it protected me in a way. The blackmailing, making money and getting accustomed to a high standard of living saved me from getting into heavy drugs. A lot of the boys in care with me are now drug addicts living on the streets, serving long term prison sentences or dead. In a way it saved me from other bad alternatives but there was still no good outcome. I am not ashamed about doing it though, because after what I have been through, I deserve the world, not just a snippet of it, and I won't let anyone make me feel like I am not worthy of having this view point.
274. I have been through so much and walked away from so much. I have tried to walk away from my troubles and reinvent myself with new business ventures and even different accents, but nothing has worked. I can't get over the trauma of what has happened to me in care, the abuse, the court case and the media smear campaign.
275. I feel that money hasn't brought anything good into my life, nor given me any kind of real peace or comfort, it has never attracted good people into my life. I have been used and abused by so many friends and partners. It has all come to a point now where I have just given up. I came out of an abusive relationship and got into gambling. I pretty much had a breakdown and gambled all my money away on purpose. I did this at the time to deliberately bankrupt myself because I thought it might bring me some form of healing.

276. I am still addicted to diazepam, which I started taking full time as soon as I came out of care as a result of the calm feelings it gave me when I first tried it from KGK KGK in kibble, and it has had such an impact on me. It has prevented me from being able to maintain a stable relationship, run a house, run a business or do anything stable to better my life, even down to not being able to pass my driving test as it can really affect your coordination and so much more. I am waiting to get an MRI scan to see the full effects of what this addiction has done to my brain. I put all off this entirely on the care system for introducing me to the drug and the trauma associated with the years of taking it.
277. I feel so debilitated by everything that I am currently living in hotel rooms or serviced apartments with no full time fixed address, and am doing nothing with my life. I spend my days just sitting and staring at a screen while trying to come off diazepam. I regularly take tramadol to help manage back pain and the deep scars and emotional pain the care system has given me. I want to build a better life with my full focus on living the true, authentic version of who I really am, but right now I am just really suffering. There has been no aftercare whatsoever and I'm surprised I'm still even alive after the hell that whole system has put me through

Current treatment

278. I have had counselling before, which helped in that they give you tools to try and manage things, which help for a while.
279. I currently have no support system and am trying to deal with everything myself emotionally, and trying to come off of these terrible diazepam tablets.

Reporting of Abuse

280. I gave a statement to the police when I was seventeen years old and reported [KGL] [KGL] for all the things he did to me when I was aged fourteen and fifteen. I told them about him getting me drunk, forcing me to have sex with him, introducing me to telephone adult chatlines and making me believe all those men were going to come round and have sex with me. I also told them about the incident in the supermarket when a guy came and grabbed [KGL] by the throat and accused him of teaching his little brother to masturbate.
281. The police arrested [KGL] but it was my word against his. Then after [] gave his fabricated statement to the police saying I was lying about the abuse, which he did for his own reasons to get back at me, the police didn't investigate [KGL] properly.
282. [KGL] knows what he has done to me and even apologised to me for it all when I was sixteen years old. I will be reporting him again and I hope the police investigate him properly this time.

Records

283. I started the process of trying to get my records last year. Wellbeing Scotland have been helping me to get them. They told me not to expect them as it was likely that they would have been destroyed, which I thought was a weird thing to say before even asking for them.
284. Wellbeing Scotland did contact Kibble for me and said that that Kibble wanted proof of my name change before they could give me records. I have changed my name a few times so it was quite complicated to get the paperwork. I have sent it to them now and they have confirmed to Wellbeing Scotland that they do have some records for me but I am still waiting to get them. I know they will be an inaccurate in the sense that

they won't have documented anything I have said here in regards to the abuse and neglect by the staff and social services.

285. I just want my records to find out the names of certain people like the Australian guy in Howdenhall. I don't care what they have written because it will just be from the perspective of one person and I don't expect them to have admitted to anything.
286. There are no records from my very early years in the foster care services, that I have knowledge of as of yet. [REDACTED] can corroborate the early foster care placements [REDACTED] and my mother and father can confirm this as well. I just want to make it clear that finding my records is not the ultimate goal here because their crimes are in my memory, and not determined in whatever records might or might not be obtained.

Lessons to be Learned

287. Social workers should put the needs of the child first. They didn't do that with me when I was young. They were more focused on trying to help my mum, who was against me being adopted out. This meant that I was back and forth in care placements then back with her, instead of being placed in a stable home where I could have settled. They prioritised her wants and needs over my welfare.
288. The authorities were totally incompetent when handling my care case from start to finish. I wasn't violent and after trying to prove that I had psychiatric problems, [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later [REDACTED], so they just put me in Kibble with a lot of violent boys who had seriously offended, where one of them even trying to attempt to murder me with a knife. That was a totally wrong placement for me. Children in care need to be placed in settings that are appropriate for them and not just put somewhere detrimental to their development and safety, just because they don't know what else to do with them.

- 289. My recollection of Kibble is that it was an enterprise. I heard them talking about going to training days, and how they wanted to further their own careers to get into the management unit. I knew at the time they didn't care about the kids, and looking back, I can see that the kids were just a commodity in the school. They talked about how their taxes paid for us to be there, how they would get paid no matter what we did and that we didn't matter. There was no genuine feelings of care or heart in the work they did. There was no awareness that the way they treated kids would impact them for the rest of their lives.

- 290. Care workers are too casual about their jobs and need to be regulated more tightly. There should be a duty of confidentiality where care workers are not allowed to talk about personal things relating to people's personal lives after they have left care.

- 291. Care homes should not get notice of when there is an inspection. Inspectors need to turn up unannounced. That is the only way they can see how things really are.

- 292. Society is failing children in care. I have been left more traumatised by being in the care system than being in the prison system.

- 293. I feel like the narrative has to change around children in care. Instead of making the kids out to be bad or disturbed, it needs to be recognised that there are massive failings in the care system, social work and police who deal with kids in care.

- 294. 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..... 31 May 2022