

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

KCX

Support person present: No.

1. My name is KCX. My date of birth is 1966. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I was born just outside Paisley. My parents were and or and I have three older brothers and two sisters, although my sisters are dead now. My oldest brother is and he is about twenty years older than me. He had a different father to me and the rest of us. After is, who is about twelve years older, who is about eight years older, who is six years older than me and then, who is six years younger.
3. When I was about two years old, my father got a job at the Vauxhall factory in Luton. He got a council house down there and the whole lot of us moved with him, the only one who stayed was. I started in the junior school there and my other brothers and sister went to the local high school. We lived in Luton for about ten years until, when I was almost twelve, my father took a heart attack.
4. My dad died and my mum was given an insurance policy by Vauxhall of £52,000, which in 1978 was a lot of money. My mother was only in her forties and after losing her husband at such a young age she turned to alcohol and eventually paralysed herself from the waist down. She ended up being in hospital for six months.

5. While she was in hospital I went to stay with my brother [REDACTED] in Luton and my sister [REDACTED] went to stay with my other sister [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] had married by that time and he and his wife had young kids. I suppose his wife didn't bank on having another child when I came along and so things weren't very happy.
6. Mum got out of hospital, but she was still drinking and so eventually her mother told her to come back up the road to Johnstone with my younger sister. They moved up and stayed with my granny, but I stayed with [REDACTED] until the summer holidays when I went up to visit my mum and never went back.
7. I was about thirteen by that time and, although I wasn't committing crimes, I was a bit of a tearaway. I was enrolled at St Cuthbert's High School in Johnstone, but I was staying out at night and I only went there for about two or three days. My mum had no control over me. She tried her best, but she was in a bad place at the time.
8. Social work from Johnstone got involved and I was assigned a lady called Jan Cuzak as my social worker. She remained my social worker until I turned sixteen. Eventually I was taken to a children's panel and it was decided that I should be put in Newfield Assessment Centre.
9. That children's panel, and all the other panels I went to after that, was in Paisley and Jan always went with me. Jan used to go and pick my mum up and she went to the panels too, but mum never had much input.

Newfield Assessment Centre, Johnstone

10. Newfield was great. It was clean and tidy, I had a room to myself, the staff were good and there was a nice atmosphere. You could approach the staff and speak to them. They told us off and they told us what we could and couldn't do, but they did it fairly. They didn't abuse any children and they didn't hit any children. Instead, to discipline us they did things like kept us in our room, or stopped the money we were given. Things that anyone would do to their own kids.

11. I had my fourteenth birthday while I was in Newfield. Mum and my partner [REDACTED] who I'm still with, actually came to see me there on my birthday and brought a cake for me. Mum must have arranged it before and they were brought in and allowed to spend time with me in the dining room. While we were in there the staff brought us plates for the cake and left us alone for a while.
12. After about six weeks at Newfield Assessment Centre it was decided that I should go to Neil Street Children's Home in Greenock.

Neil Street Children's Home, Greenock

13.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

14.

15.

16. The panel decided that I should be sent to St Andrew's List D School at Shandon and that I would be in there until I was sixteen. St Andrew's was where my nightmare began.

St Andrew's List D School, Shandon, Argyll and Bute

17. The main building at St Andrew's was like a castle and was kind of freaky. It was a bit like the 'Adams Family' house. You got there by going through Helensburgh and heading along a country road towards Loch Lomond. There were stone pillars at the entrance and then you went up a long drive, where there was an Admin block on the left and staff houses further back on the left. In the Admin block there was a medic room and a room that was used as a cell.

18. At the top of the drive was the main house, which was called Shandon House and there were separate newer buildings to the sides. The one on the right was called Fruin Unit and the one on the left was Douglas Unit. At the back of the school was the Parade and a shed where the various workshops were run. The Parade was an area of tarmac where all the boys lined up in the morning, that was surrounded on all sides by the three units and the workshop shed.

19. Shandon House was cold and draughty with big wooden stairs leading off the hallway on the ground floor. The stairs led up to the dormitories for the boys that were in Shandon Unit and the Headmaster's office. On the ground floor to the left was a reception room, to the right was Shandon Unit dining room and straight on was a corridor that led to a back door onto the Parade. As you went down that corridor you passed the boot room, the showers for the boys in Shandon Unit and the kitchen, where the food for all the units was prepared.

20. I was in Douglas Unit for the whole of my time at St Andrew's. In Douglas, as you walked into the building a staircase led off the entrance foyer that took you up to the dormitories upstairs. Downstairs you went through double doors where there was a dining room and a small kitchen that was used for washing the dishes. There was also an office and a TV room and further along was a room with pool tables in it. The sinks where we washed and the showers and the boot room were also on the ground floor. Past that was another set of stairs leading up to the dorms.

21. I found out later on that St Andrew's was owned by the Catholic Church, but it wasn't run by monks. I can't remember the name of SNR but his nickname was 'FQH', because of his big eyes. We had nicknames for everybody. SNR was called HLQ or HLQ or something like that. He was a big, strapping man, with giant hands.
22. There were three staff for each of the two units, but they worked shifts so that there was always two on during the day as well as another member of staff at night. I don't know if the member of staff on duty at night stayed in each unit, or if they patrolled all three units.
23. KCR was the top man, the housemaster, of Douglas Unit and the staff were a woman called Ann or Anna, who was only in her late twenties and foreign, and a man called KXX. They were the three that dealt with me in Douglas Unit and who had the most access to me.
24. There were two or three teachers in the school and there were also teachers that ran the workshops for engineering and carpentry and also one for the gardens. There was a chef in the main kitchen in Shandon House who prepared the food for all the boys and his wife was the Matron and she did the laundry.
25. It was all boys at St Andrew's, probably around sixty or seventy, ranging in age from about eleven to sixteen. In Douglas Unit there were about twenty-five boys and that was probably much the same in the other units.
26. There were some good times at St Andrew's. I was in the football team and I enjoyed that, but on the whole I would describe my time at St Andrew's as pure hell.

Routine at St Andrew's School

First day

27. I'd probably only been at Neil Street for about six weeks by the time I was sent to the children's panel, so it must have been the middle of [REDACTED] 1980 when I went to St Andrew's. I was fourteen years old.
28. Jan took me straight from the panel to St Andrew's and we got there about 4:00 pm, just as it was getting dark. Passing all the trees and bushes in the dim light and coming up the driveway to Shandon House, I was scared. I'd heard all these stories about List D schools and Borstals and seeing this creepy old building freaked me out a bit. I didn't know what to expect.
29. I was taken in to see the Headmaster in his office upstairs in Shandon with Jan. In front of Jan, he laid down some rules for me, not in an angry way, but letting me know that he was the boss. He made sure I knew that he ran the school and that I had to do what he told me. I suppose I was pretty anxious at that point, because I knew I wasn't going to be getting mollycoddled like I might have been in a children's home. I knew that I'd put myself in that position, but I wondered whether it was what I really wanted.
30. I was taken over to Douglas Unit by one of the staff and Jan left. I was shown into my dormitory, which I was to share with another three boys. The clothes I was wearing were taken off me and put in a store and I was given shoes, socks, jeans, tee shirts, a brown jumper and a jacket to put on. It was all like army surplus stuff. I was also given sheets, a pillow case and pyjamas.

Mornings and bedtime

31. All that was in the dormitory were our beds and a bedside cabinet that you couldn't lock. We all had a water jug on our cabinets and we put our clothes in the cabinet at night and our pyjamas in it during the day.

32. In the morning we were woken at 7:00 am and we would go down the back stairs to get a wash and brush our teeth at the sinks. Once we'd washed, we'd go back up to our dorms, get our clothes on and leave our towels there. Then we would go back downstairs and wait in the corridor to go and get our breakfast in the dining room.
33. After breakfast we had to go to the boot room and put our boots and jacket on and then line up on the Parade outside Douglas Unit. The boys from Shandon and Fruin all had to line up on the Parade outside their units as well. Once we were lined up we were told where we were each to go for the morning, whichever work shed or class each boy went to.
34. We would then go to wherever we'd been told, stay there till lunchtime and then head back to Douglas Unit. Once there you might have a game of pool before lunch, if you could get on the table. After lunch you could go to the football pitch for half-an-hour if you wanted, before you went back out on Parade again. Then we would be told where we were to be going in the afternoon.
35. After workshop or class in the afternoon we'd head back to Douglas Unit, get our boots and jackets off in the boot room and have a wash at the sink. Then we'd wait to get our dinner, watch the TV afterwards and then have a cup of tea and some bread and butter before going up to our dorms and getting ready for bed. After that we were locked into our dorms for the night.
36. The windows in the dorm wouldn't open and the only way you could get to the toilet during the night was if you banged the door for the member of staff on duty to let you go. You could be standing at that door for ages waiting on him.

Mealtimes/Food

37. We ate all meals in the dining room in Douglas Unit, although the food was prepared in the main kitchen and brought over by one of the boys. As far as I can remember the food was actually okay. It wasn't the best, but it wasn't the worst.

38. Breakfast was usually cereals and a bit of toast. At lunch there was always boiled cabbage, potatoes and a bit of breaded fish, that sort of thing. At teatime it might be chips and a bit of pizza. There was no force feeding and there was no choice, so if you didn't eat it you went without, but I never had a problem.

Washing/bathing

39. We washed at the sinks every morning and every evening, but the only day we got a shower was on a Friday afternoon when we changed our kit. There was no supervision and I got mop buckets and other things thrown at me by other boys in the showers.

Clothing/uniform

40. All our clothing was provided by St Andrew's and it all got changed on a Tuesday and a Friday. There was nowhere to keep clean stuff, we had to wear everything for a few days and just keep it on our bedside cabinets when we went to bed.

Leisure time

41. In spare time we could watch TV and there was a pool table and a dart board, but a lot of boys just used to sit in the boot room and smoke, because we were allowed to in there. You could also go for a walk around the three units, but you had to let the staff know where you were going and who you were going with. You had to get permission to do everything.
42. There was also a football park and a football team, which I played in and we sometimes used to go to other approved schools to play their teams. That maybe happened twice a year and they came to us as well. There wasn't any sort of league, it was just something that was arranged between the schools.
43. We also used to play the other units' football teams every so often and there were cross country runs as well, but all within the school grounds.

44. We could walk down to Faslane Naval Base to use their swimming pool, which also meant we could get a shower there. A group of boys were allowed to go there once a week and you had to put your name down if you wanted to go. A lot of the boys didn't bother with swimming, so there might only be six or seven names on the list and so, if you were lucky, you could go every week.
45. At the weekends, most of the boys would go home, but those that didn't have anywhere to go, like me, were all put into one house unit. There would maybe only be fifteen or twenty boys left, so they would shut the other units down. Over the weekend you were left to your own devices and you could go and play football on the park, or watch TV, or play pool. There was nothing put on for us.
46. I used to ask if I could go into the kitchens to help there at the weekends. I didn't get to do that all the time, but I did quite a few times and that used to take up most of my time.

Trips and holidays

47. Other than a few away football matches, the only time I was taken out of the school was to help find a boy from Paisley who hadn't returned from home leave. I was taken because I knew the area, but there were no trips other than that. You never saw outside otherwise.
48. The only holiday I had was during my first summer in 1981, because I wasn't getting home leave. The headmaster arranged for me to go with a couple who were going on a caravan holiday to Ullapool with their three children. They lived in Erskine and came to meet me in the headmaster's office before I went away with them for two weeks.
49. I suppose the school must have paid for a lot of the family's holiday too, but it was great and I really enjoyed it. We stayed in a giant family tent and we got on well. Their two boys were just a bit younger than me and their girl was a bit older.

Schooling

50. I had been put to St Andrew's for not going to school and yet, when I got there, I only had three weeks of classes. After that I was taken out of classes and put in an engineering workshop. I could never understand that.
51. When I got there I had to sit a maths test and an English test and I must have passed enough to get put into a work shed. I wasn't told what my mark was, but if it had been low I would have had to go to classes.
52. You didn't really get a choice which work shed you were going to, you went where the spaces were, but I would have chosen engineering anyway. We mostly learned how to braze and how to weld and we actually made a canoe and telephone tables and we learned how to turn metal on a lathe.

Healthcare

53. If anyone got badly injured or was seriously unwell, they would get a doctor in or they would be taken to hospital, but for anything minor they went to the medic room in the Admin block. One of the members of staff from your unit would take you over and put a plaster on you, or whatever.
54. I got chicken pox while I was at St Andrew's and was put in an empty dorm with another boy who had also caught it. I was in there for a few days and my meals were all brought to me.
55. I never had to see a dentist, but I suppose if anyone did they would have been taken to Helensburgh. There wasn't a dentist based in St Andrew's and there were no regular checks.

Religious instruction

56. We were all made to go to chapel on a Sunday, which was in part of the main building, Shandon House. It wasn't a massive chapel and religion wasn't drummed into you, but there was no choice, we had to go.
57. It was Catholic and a priest used to come in from outside to take the Mass on Sundays and for any other religious days, like at Easter. I was a Catholic anyway, but I'd never had much involvement with the church before.

Work

58. Everybody got turns doing things like working in the kitchen each week, if they were able. The chef used to actually ask for me to help him because I couldn't go home at weekends. I knew it was to get me out of the problems I was having in Douglas. All I was doing was helping to prepare the vegetables and washing the dishes. There was no cooking.
59. A group of boys had the duty of cleaning the sinks and the toilets every day and we also had to Hoover our own rooms on a Friday and polish the floors with big heavy weights on a pole. You had to put polish on the floor and a cloth under the weight and push and pull it, forward and back. It was really heavy and I was only small and I struggled. Sometimes I used to get a slap by one of the staff for not getting it done right and having to get somebody else to come and do it for me. I wasn't capable of doing it, but weakness just wasn't tolerated and they didn't like failure.

Birthdays and Christmas

60. Birthdays weren't celebrated at all, they were just another day. Boys went home for Christmas, although they would put a tree up in the chapel and there were a few decorations in the house unit. There was also a Christmas dinner before all the boys went on home leave, which was not too bad. There might be some sliced turkey and a few vegetables, a bit different to the norm.

61. I never got to go home at Christmas, so I just spent the day watching TV and things like that with the other boys who couldn't go home either. There was nothing for us to do because the staff were celebrating Christmas with their families, although they did give us a half ounce of tobacco and some chocolate. They weren't all bad, they did do some nice things.

Personal possessions and pocket money

62. We weren't allowed anything of our own at all. Even our clothes were put into a store.
63. Everybody got £2.60 for the chores they did and for the week that you were in the cookhouse you got £4, because it was harder work and you were there early in the morning and at night. You didn't really see the money though, it was just written on a bit of paper. The staff had a filing cabinet that they used to sell us stuff from and they'd deduct it from what was written on our bit of paper. It was enough to get you tobacco and soap, if you didn't want to use the carbolic soap that they gave you. They gave us toothpaste too, but you could buy nice stuff if you wanted.

Visitors

64. You were allowed a visitor, but you had to see them in the dining room at Shandon House. There was no visit time as such, any visit had to be arranged with the school. Most of the visitors that came were boys' social workers because most of them were getting home leaves and didn't need to see their families. I never had any visits from my family at all.
65. Jan Cuzak, my social worker, was great. She did everything that she could for a small tearaway and she looked after my mum as well. She used to come and see me every six to eight weeks. I could speak to her on my own, but, although she was okay, she was a social worker and she never believed anything I told her. I was just seen as a troublemaker.

Review of detention

66. I never went for any more Children's Panels after the one before I was sent to St Andrew's. Once I was in there, that was it. I knew I was there until I turned sixteen.

External Inspections

67. If anybody came in to inspect St Andrew's, I never saw them. Certainly nobody spoke to me to ask how I was getting on.

Family contact

68. We weren't allowed to phone home, however most boys went home for the weekend every six weeks and we were encouraged to write to our families. The whole school used to shut down every six weeks and everybody went home, only the boys who had nowhere to go were left behind. I couldn't go home to my mum and any contact with her was through Jan, who passed anything on between us.
69. I could have gone to my brother [REDACTED]'s, but I was a problem [REDACTED] didn't need and, although my social worker Jan did go and speak to him, at first he said that it wasn't possible. [REDACTED] had been married and had a little boy who was six months old when his wife died suddenly of a brain haemorrhage, so [REDACTED] had his own issues to deal with.
70. Eventually, a few months down the line, the matron told me to write to [REDACTED] so I did. I gave the letter to ^{KCR} [REDACTED] the housemaster of Douglas, which he read, put a stamp on and deducted the money for the stamp from my allowance. [REDACTED] stood up to the mark and agreed and the school and the social work passed it for me to go. [REDACTED] didn't take any nonsense and told me that if I got up to anything he would stop the home visits, however it was good to get out so I behaved myself.
71. A bus used to take us from the school on a Friday afternoon to Buchanan Street bus station. We were dropped off there and had to make our way to wherever our families

were and then we had to make our way back to Buchanan Street on a Sunday afternoon to be bused back to the school.

Discipline

72. The only discipline was physical punishment. They didn't stop your money and there was no point in grounding us because we never got out anyway. I suppose they could give you more chores like scrubbing the floor with the heavy polisher, but mainly they hit us.

Running away

73. There was a thing called 'boys response' if you went on home leave and didn't come back. I always came back from home leave, but if a boy didn't, the rest of the boys in their unit wouldn't get their next home leave and that meant you would be in trouble with them.
74. After I'd been at St Andrew's for about six months, I ran away with another boy called [REDACTED]. We were caught by the police about four hours later on the railway line near to Helensburgh and taken back. We were taken up to SNR [REDACTED]'s office and [REDACTED] went in before me, while I had to stay outside. I could hear him squealing like a pig before he came out and I was taken in.
75. I was caned by SNR [REDACTED] while SNR [REDACTED] held my hands and I was told that no matter how many times I ran away, I would be brought back. They told me I was going nowhere and that I would be staying at St Andrew's until I was sixteen.

Bed Wetting

76. After I had been at St Andrew's for about six months I started wetting my bed regularly. I wasn't allowed to shower and as a result I was starting to smell and the room was starting to smell and I got bullied so badly by the other boys. It was constant. I was

an outcast. I wasn't part of anything. I'd get boots thrown at me in the boot room, I'd be punched in the face by other boys and I would be called names.

77. The staff weren't making it any easier. Every time I wet my bed **KCR** whacked me with his leather belt and made me take my wet sheets off the bed and stand in the queue for breakfast with them. I had to take those wet sheets into the dining room with me for breakfast and I had to stand out on the Parade with them afterwards, in front of everybody. Only after everybody left the Parade was I able to take the wet sheets to the laundry.
78. Even if **KCR** was off, because he said that had to happen, the other staff had to abide by what he said. Anna had a bit of compassion and sometimes she would tell me to put the wet sheets in the office while I had breakfast and then she'd give me them back to go out on the Parade afterwards. That only happened when she was on by herself though, which wasn't very often. If **KCR** had known he would have gone mad at Anna.
79. The matron was sometimes in tears when she saw what was happening to me, standing out on the Parade with the wet sheets. She kept asking me what was going on and I told her about the bullying and getting beaten by **KCR**. She had a heart, but there was nothing she could do.

Abuse at St Andrew's School

80. As a child, I was only small and very timid and I was badly bullied by some of the other boys. I lived in fear of the staff and the boys. I don't want to name any of the boys, but some of them ended up big figures in the Glasgow underworld. Some of them were nasty and ended up murderers and they were the leaders in St Andrew's.
81. I actually saw some boys getting bad beatings in the showers and elsewhere. One of them, who was from Johnstone and was a big stocky guy, stuck up for me a few times. As a result he got himself leathered by the other boys. He kicked a boy in the face in the boot room and the next day four or five of the other boys really laid into him.

82. If you refused to clean, your housemaster would give you the leather belt several times across your hands, which was a matter of course. If that didn't work you were sent to SNR [REDACTED] and you would get the cane. Normally KCR [REDACTED] would belt you, but if he wasn't there one of the staff would do it. Anna never hit anyone, but KKK [REDACTED] did, although not very often. We had to hold our hands out and we would be hit between two and six times across them, like you would get at school. I got either three or four hits every time I wet the bed, which was two or three times a week.
83. KCR, KKK [REDACTED] and staff from the other units and the teachers also used to slap boys on the back of the head or give them a kick if they were cheeky. There was always something, it was commonplace.
84. I can remember SNR [REDACTED]'s hands because he and SNR [REDACTED] used to cane us. Boys were caned by them on a daily basis and it could be for anything. Some boys would get it for attacking the staff, or for refusing to go to work, or for refusing to clean. One boy was caned frequently and I got the cane twice, once for running away and once for fighting. I had just been standing up for myself, but I was caned and so was the other boy. The first time I was caned was after I had run away with [REDACTED]
85. I was made to bend over the back of a chair, with my hands holding onto the arms. HLQ [REDACTED] covered my hands with his and held me there while FQH [REDACTED] hit me with the cane across my backside, over my jeans. It didn't make any difference being over my jeans though, it was a thin cane and he hit me six times, full pelt and it hurt. I had big black and blue lines right across my backside for days afterwards and one of [REDACTED]'s welts was actually bleeding.
86. After that they took us across to the cell in the Admin block and locked us in there. The windows in the cell were metal framed with small squares and some of the glass in the squares was broken. It was cold and it was raining outside and all we had to sleep on was a thin gym mat, two hairy blankets and a pair of pyjamas. Our food was brought up from the kitchen by one of the boys and we were only allowed out to use

the toilet. █████ did three days and I did another five on top of that, so I was locked in that cell for eight days.

87. KCR █████ sexually abused me and, although I know it sounds bad, I let it happen. I still have so much anger towards that man, but at the time he was like a safe haven. When he was doing that he wasn't hurting me. It was after he started sexually abusing me that I started wetting my bed however, although the sexual abuse was bad, it wasn't as bad as everything else. If I did what he told me to do he protected me to some extent, I got tobacco and I got extra money. As I have got older, I have realised that he was grooming me.
88. It started the second time the rest of the boys went on home leave, which would have been twelve weeks after I'd arrived at St Andrew's. He asked me to help him with boxes in the storeroom upstairs and when we were in there he started to touch me under my trousers. I kind of freaked out, but he told me not to panic, that he would make sure I was okay and the boys wouldn't beat me up.
89. After touching me, he masturbated himself and then he let me out of the storeroom. I didn't know what to do. I just cried. I didn't understand. He was the man who was in charge, who was hitting everybody with the belt and then he was doing that. He gave me a small bit of tobacco and carried on as if nothing had happened.
90. About a week later he took me in the van to drop logs off at some of the staff houses and, in the van, he did it again. Just as he'd done the first time, he touched my genitals under my trousers and then he masturbated himself. This happened for the rest of the time I was at St Andrew's. It wasn't on a weekly basis, but it was frequent, every few weeks.
91. Sometimes he made me touch him, but he never raped me and it never went further than that. It was always over in a matter of minutes, but I know that if he had more access to me he would have done more. I could see it in his eyes. We were never away for more than ten or fifteen minutes, because if we had some of the other staff might have started asking questions.

92. It got to the stage, with all the bullying from the other boys, that I felt KCR was my safety. If I kept him happy, I knew I was okay. I could sit in the TV room and I knew he was outside and that he wouldn't let anything happen to me. He also made exceptions for me. There were no staff in the boot room and when we used to go in there to get our boots on, I used to get kicked and have boots thrown at me. KCR would let me stay back until most of the boys had left the room and then let me go in.
93. If it had just been the sexual abuse and the physical punishments from KCR St Andrew's would almost have been bearable, but that combined with the bullying from the other boys for wetting my bed made it so hard.

Reporting of abuse at St Andrew's School

94. I told Jan Cuzak my social worker about all the abuse when she came to see me at St Andrew's. I told her about being bullied by the other boys and being beaten by the staff and I told her about KCR touching himself, but she never did anything. I'm not just blaming her, because it didn't just fall on her deaf ears. I don't think she even knew what to do about it.
95. I'd also told the policeman in the police station at Helensburgh after we had run away. Before I could even finish what I was saying I got the hardest slap across the back of my head from the policeman that I'd ever had. He told me to stop bad-mouthing these people who were trying to look after me and that I was just trying to cause trouble. Nobody believed me, we were just thought of as troublemakers and scum and we were taken back to St Andrew's. I think the reason I was locked in the cell for five days more than was because I had told that policeman and he must have told SNR
96. One member of staff did take me aside once and ask if everything was okay. He was the housemaster from Fruin Unit, but I can't remember his name. He was known to us as KEB because he looked like Leo Sayer. He said that he knew I was getting bullied by other boys and he asked me if everything else was okay. I don't know if he

knew something, but I just told him everything was fine. I knew he was reaching out to me, but I was suspicious and I wondered why. Perhaps I was scared to tell him anything.

Leaving St Andrew's School

97. I knew that on my sixteenth birthday I would be leaving St Andrew's and, before I left the school, I had an interview for a job in Johnstone. I had applied while I was still in St Andrew's and the job was on a Youth Training Scheme (YTS) at Paisley and Johnstone Engineering. I left on my birthday on [REDACTED] 1982 and started the job on the Monday.
98. The school sorted things out with my brother [REDACTED] for me to stay with him and I got a grant from the social work and the school for some clothing. Jan picked me up on the morning of my birthday and took me to [REDACTED]'s house, but I never saw her after that. She just dropped me, the school dropped me and I was left to get on with it myself, with no support whatsoever.

Life after being in care

99. I finished the YTS job and started seeing [REDACTED] again and eventually we got a house together after she fell pregnant with our oldest daughter [REDACTED]. I was seventeen at the time and that's when the nightmares about St Andrew's started. I felt disgusted and depressed and I started to self-medicate with alcohol and drugs. I had blackouts and I ended up in jail and that has been the story of my life.
100. We moved down to Luton and I got a job as a builder's cleaner, but [REDACTED] fell pregnant again and we decided to move back up to Scotland. [REDACTED]'s dad owned a scrapyard and I worked with him for a while, but after a few months I would have another blackout and end up in the jail again. I have worked out that I have spent fifteen years in jail for silly things and for serious things.

101. [REDACTED] and I had another two daughters, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], but I was still having problems with the alcohol and the drugs. Eventually I was given a seven year jail sentence and it was after that, in 1998 when I was thirty-two, that [REDACTED] and my daughters and I moved back down to Luton. It had been [REDACTED]'s decision, she knew my family there anyway and she said that something had to change.
102. The only good part of my life is [REDACTED] and my three daughters and four grandchildren, but now [REDACTED] is very ill. She's had a kidney transplant and has a tumour at the moment on her old kidney and they think it's cancerous.

Impact

103. I have been through some nightmares trying to forget St Andrew's. As soon as I left, I stopped wetting the bed, but that's when all the alcohol and the drug abuse started. I still get the nightmares and the flashbacks, but I think that [REDACTED]'s illness has stopped me from turning to alcohol and drugs more recently. I have to be there if she needs me.
104. [REDACTED] stuck by me all these years when I was getting drunk and getting sent to jail and that, of course, affected our relationship. If I've had a bad day and I've been thinking about what happened to me, she might try to cuddle me, but I push her away.
105. I had a heart attack a few years ago and now I need to take medication all the time and go for regular tests. There's no doubt that has been because of the alcohol and the drugs that I have taken over the years.
106. I am paranoid with people and I am so protective of my family. I hate leaving my grandkids with anybody because I know how easy it would be for them to be abused and I know they wouldn't tell me.
107. I can't trust other people. I have asked kids in the street if they're okay, if I think something doesn't look right. [REDACTED] questions what I'm doing and tells me it's probably just someone with his child.

108. I managed to educate myself when I was in prison. There were no TVs when I was in prison and so I read all the time, I went to classes and I taught myself. That's the only way I learned anything, because there was nothing at St Andrew's. I think if I had received a proper education there it would have made a big difference. Maybe I could have got some qualifications and moved on to a college somewhere.
109. So often I have felt disgusted about what ^{KCR} [REDACTED] did to me and wondered why I didn't stop it. I try and justify it to myself and I get so depressed. I've never told anybody about it. I feel so dirty and I wonder why I was so weak that I let it happen.

Treatment/support

110. Nobody in their right mind abuses themselves with alcohol and drugs and gets sent to jail the number of times I have, however not once have I been seen by a psychologist or a counsellor. I would have thought there should have been a red flag to the judge, but every time I was just sent to jail.
111. Now that I have opened up to the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry, I think I could probably open up to somebody else. The next step is to tell my daughters and then I'll work out a plan.

Reporting of Abuse

112. I contacted a firm of lawyers in England before I contacted the Inquiry, just to see what I could do about what happened to me. I'd got to the stage where I felt that somebody needed to listen. They told me I would need to make a statement to the police, but I didn't want to go down that route. My family didn't know anything at that stage and it felt too much, so I never did.

Records

113. I have never tried to get my records, it's never occurred to me, but I would like to know why it was decided that I should go to St Andrew's for the length of time I was. There was no carrot offered that if I behaved myself for six months I would get out.

Lessons to be Learned/Hopes for the Inquiry

114. I know that abuse of children is never going to stop, it will never be eradicated completely, but I hope that in the future there will be more people with their eye on the ball. Children need to be told that people are listening. They need to know that there is help available.
115. People don't like being preached to by someone who has never walked the walk themselves. The best people to speak to children in care are survivors themselves. If a child knows that they are speaking to someone who has been there themselves and if those survivors are able to tell children of their own experiences, I know that it would be much easier for that child to confide in them. If that had happened to me I know I would have spoken to them.
116. There needs to be more supervision of the people looking after children. Even in prison, Inspectors come and ask how you are, or if you have any complaints.
117. I know that it is a cliché, but time is a great healer. I try to compartmentalise and put things to the back of my mind and leave them there, but then I might read something and it all comes flooding back. I decided that I needed to tell my story. If my doing so could help somebody else, I knew I needed to do it. A jigsaw is made up of small pieces and all those small pieces need to be added together so that people can see the whole picture.
118. The big lesson for the Inquiry is awareness. If there is more awareness there is less opportunity for abusers to abuse.

Other information

119. 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.

KCX


Signed.....

Dated..... 05/05/22.