

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

KXH

Support person present: No

1. My name is KXH but up until 2012 I was known as KXH. My date of birth is the 1969. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. From information which I learnt later in life, my mother resided in Ireland and she fell pregnant at the age of fourteen. My mother's parents were staunch Roman Catholics and my mother was deemed to be a disgrace to the family, and they sent her over to Scotland to give birth to me in secret.
3. My mother returned to Limerick without me and I was immediately put up for adoption in Scotland. I was placed into numerous orphanages, with the one stipulation from my parents being that I was brought up in a Roman Catholic family. Eventually I was adopted at the age of eighteen months through the St Margaret's of Scotland Adoption Society, and my adopted parents were and who resided in Clydebank Glasgow, I never really felt part of that family.

Life with the Family

4. was a very controlling woman who gave everything to. was a good guy and a gentleman who was employed as a slater and plasterer, he was a real grafter but his only real weakness was that he wouldn't stand up to I loved and we were close. They had a son called who was five years

older than me, and another adopted son who was called [REDACTED] who was two years older than me. [REDACTED] was a very possessive individual and he demanded [REDACTED]'s attention which she gave to him, I was always discarded or dismissed by [REDACTED]. I was told at the age of seven or eight by [REDACTED] that I was adopted, I was devastated and shocked in the way she had told me. I felt that my family bond had gone.

5. At the age of three I was molested by my Great Uncle [REDACTED] whilst I was at Saltcoats, I remember some years later in childish language telling [REDACTED] what Uncle [REDACTED] had done to me and she cried. When I was fifteen I said to [REDACTED] that I believed that Uncle [REDACTED] had molested her and she ran out of the room into the bathroom refusing to comment on what I was saying. I believe that [REDACTED] was abused by her Uncle [REDACTED] as a child and this abuse had made her into the person she was.
6. Things were relatively ok for me at home and I attended at St Joseph's Faifley Primary School. The kids at school used to shout at me "adopted, adopted" I used to be in tears. I learnt to stand up to the bully's, [REDACTED] took me to one side and taught me to box and fight and so did [REDACTED] and when the bully's came to me I would fight them and win. I was the best fighter in primary school although I was a polite child. I moved to St Columbus School in Clydebank and I was still subjected to bullying by the pupils and I withdrew into myself. But I wasn't afraid of anyone.
7. Eventually things were so bad at school that [REDACTED] informed me that I had been expelled from school. I later learnt from records that this was a lie, I was in fact standing up for myself against the bully's and that she actually removed me from the school. My relationship with [REDACTED] had totally broken down and a Social Worker called Mark Holmes, who was severely overweight intervened. A decision was then made to send me to Monken Hadley School in Newton Stewart. Monken Hadley School was a List G school for children with behavioural difficulties. I was thirteen years old.

Monken Hadley School, Newton Stewart.

8. I travelled with Mark Holmes and [REDACTED] for an initial visit to Monken Hadley, my initial feelings were that the place was grey and horrible. It used to be a hunting lodge and I was greeted by a half Rottweiler dog who bounded up to me. I met a Mrs KXP [REDACTED] who was the housemother and who the children called KXP [REDACTED] and SNR [REDACTED] Mr HSO [REDACTED]. Mrs KXP [REDACTED] had steel grey curly hair and cold black eyes and she would later become the matron. I spent a couple of hours at the property and the house was musty with old furniture and it felt like an old museum, the atmosphere was evil and I could sense the fear from the kids. The adults were putting on a persona for the adults, in reality they were horrible.
9. During the journey home I informed [REDACTED] and Mark Holmes that I didn't like the school and I thought that Mrs KXP [REDACTED] was an evil women. [REDACTED] was desperately trying to persuade me to attend the school and I was having none of it. My protestations were ignored and two weeks later I again travelled back with [REDACTED] and Mark Holmes to commence my stay at Monken Hadley. I felt incredibly frightened and prior to our arrival at the school [REDACTED] walked around the ornamental gardens with me in an effort to calm me down. I felt that I was being abandoned and dumped in the town.
10. On arriving at the school we were met my Mrs KXP [REDACTED]. As [REDACTED] and Mark Holmes were leaving I tried to wave goodbye to [REDACTED] but I was grabbed and slapped by Mrs KXP [REDACTED]. Once they were out of sight Mrs KXP [REDACTED] immediately ordered me to strip off and put on a blue towelling dressing gown and we walked down a corridor to the showers. She made me stand in the shower whilst she very roughly with her nails scrubbed Zulu shampoo through my hair giving the explanation that she was using the shampoo to remove nits. I was so ashamed that I was standing naked in front of her and I was crying. I was thirteen and very self-conscious. Mrs KXP [REDACTED] was sadistic, she would take pleasure in causing pain. I recall that Mrs KXP [REDACTED] had said something rude about [REDACTED] and that other kids were around. These kids were tough looking kids and they mocked me and generally made me feel very uncomfortable.

11. I recall meeting a Mr [KXJ] who was a house father. He was a corporal in the army and had come straight out of the army to work at Monken Hadley. [KXJ] had orange ginger hair with long side burns, blue beady eyes and a very red face when he was angry, he must have been aged thirty five or thirty six. [KXJ] had a yellow Cortina with a black roof and I can remember looking out for his car every morning to see if he was at work. If I saw his car I felt very frightened and if it wasn't there I felt a lot more relaxed. He was a very real and constant threat to all.
12. [KXJ] resided with his wife [] and I was very aware later in life that he had physically abused [] whilst he was at the school, and that she was also fully aware of the physical abuse that the children suffered at his hands. She and I became secret allies.
13. Monken Hadley was an old hunting lodge and as you entered through the front doors there was a dining room on the right hand side with mahogany panelling and benches contained within it. The room smelt very musty and the setting was similar to something out of Oliver Twist. On the left hand side were approximately five to six rooms which contained Mr [HSO] [SNR] office, and a number of classrooms, there was a corridor you would go down where there was storerooms and a kitchen.
14. The back stairs led up to the first floor which they called the "lowers". There was a massive room measuring about thirty by twenty five feet, there were also an additional five rooms and a corridor with a bathroom and shower. There was a middle floor with fifteen rooms and a floor above that where [] slept. [] was the only girl at Monken Hadley when I first arrived. I started in the lowers with about eight other children, and there were about fifteen older children and four children who were called "special" who behaved so well that they had their own little flat. The age range of the children when I started was from about eleven years to sixteen. The age range did fluctuate as time went on and towards the end there were children as young as nine and there were about six or seven girls. There were children from Edinburgh, Livingston, Mid Lothian and a few from Glasgow. I recall that the girls were [] who was about fourteen, [] and [] who were fourteen, [] was about thirteen,

about twelve and who was about thirteen. I later would learn that KXJ the housefather had sexually abused the girls and his young daughters. He was later convicted for this.

15. Mr HSO resided in a bungalow house. At some point an ex pupil called from Germany who was employed as a house father lived in a night staff room just down the corridor from mine. He shared this with another member of staff called David Low. Mrs KXP tried to convince us that she stayed overnight by wearing a dressing gown during the evening, but we knew that the dressing gown hid her day clothing and that she left the building at night.

Routine at Monken Hadley School.

First day

16. I recall being shown to a big massive room with metal bunk beds. I was told that I would be sleeping in the bottom bunk of one of the sets of bunks. I shared the room with , and .

Mornings and bedtime

17. In the morning Mrs KXP would wake us up by screaming and shouting and we would all have to line up outside the room with our tops off. We would then have a quick wash in the sink and get dressed, before breakfast we would have tasks to do like sweeping and polishing shoes. We would then again line up before going downstairs for breakfast. A woman called Rhona McBriarty was the member of staff who took care of . We would all have to line up again by our chairs before being told to sit down by KXJ. KXJ would come into the dining room like a major general from the army with his shoes clicking on the floor, and he would call each table to go up and receive breakfast. KXJ was a sadistic and brutal man and he would dish out physical punishment if you didn't eat your breakfast.

18. When I first started at Monken Hadley it was Mrs KXP who would tell us to go to bed, we would shower first and be given cocoa out of a plastic jug which was disgusting. We would be in bed by about 9:30 pm.

Mealtimes/Food

19. We would have salt porridge or cereal on alternate days and it was cooked by big Nan and fat Nan. The food was generally disgusting and there was nothing appetizing about it. I can particularly recall the stew which smelt disgusting and it was all served on metal trays. At lunchtimes you would be made to go outside for forty five minutes in all weathers, I would ensure that I was sweeping the dining room to avoid going out.

Washing/bathing

20. We would be allowed to shower in the evening after we had dinner, this wouldn't be every day. There were three shower cubicles and the showering wasn't supervised.

Clothing/uniform

21. [REDACTED] was insistent that she bought my school uniforms from Marks and Spencer which consisted of black trousers, a grey or blue jumper and a white or blue shirt. We were provided with jeans and a tee shirt by Monken Hadley.

Leisure time

22. On a Saturday we would be allowed to go to the cinema, or walk around the town. When Barra Lunny took over as the new housemaster he was very decent and I was assigned to take over the care of the Rottweiler dog. I used to walk the dog around the town for about an hour at a time and I would also visit Kathy the cleaner at her house in [REDACTED] in Newton Stewart.

Trips and holidays

23. I can recall going to the schools log cabin in the forest, which was called the Jubilee Hut which HSO purchased. The log cabin was used to promote Monken Hadley as a lovely place to send kids. Most of the school holidays were spent at home with [redacted] and [redacted]

School

24. I did attend classes at Monken Hadley but I didn't learn anything and the teaching was diabolical. The teachers lived locally. KWG would be one of the teachers who taught the middle age group and if you couldn't do something she had asked you to do she would just shout at you making it impossible for you to learn anything. I remember this happening to me in maths. I was paralyzed with her shouting and I couldn't function. She would constantly use sarcasm while mocking kids.
25. [redacted] taught the younger children and Flora Hume taught the fifteen and sixteen year olds.

Healthcare

26. Mrs KXP when she was matron would be responsible for taking you to the doctor in the event that you fell ill. When you had injuries from being beaten she would just say to the doctor that you had fallen down the stairs, the doctor would accept it.
27. When [redacted] was thrown down the stairs by KXJ the medical authorities were just told that he had fallen, nothing was questioned despite him having a broken leg. I was good friends with [redacted] and he told me at the time that it had been dismissed by HSO. [redacted]'s mother had approached him and he told her that he had fallen.

Religious instruction

28. I went to attending the Catholic Church whilst the other kids used to go to the Protestant church and I used it as an excuse to walk around the town and see Kathy the cleaner.

Work

29. We all had jobs to do in the morning before breakfast. The jobs were things like washing the dishes, cleaning floors and polishing shoes. Mrs KXP allocated the work tasks for the week, the regime was harsh like in the film Scum.
30. I can remember washing the dishes on one occasion for a week and it was then that I started getting on really well with Kathy McGuinness and Nan. They started asking me if everything was all right and I started to confide in them. Kathy from then used to invite me to hers when I was walking the dog and she even offered to come with me to the police if things got too bad.
31. KXJ's favourite work task to brutalize the kids on a Saturday morning in autumn, was to get the children to sweep the sixty foot by thirty foot courtyard. There would be thousands of golden leaves. We would be given massive industrial brushes and we would line up across the yard and together we would sweep as we crossed the yard and the brushes would cause blistering to our hands. If we didn't do it properly KXJ would physically punish us, brutally. He would grab you by the hair and run with you and throw you to the ground. When you got up, he would do it again and then kick you when you were down. He also slapped you several times very hard across the face.

Birthdays and Christmas

32. I would spend Christmas at home with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

Visits/Inspections/Review of Detention

33. I recall a school open day being arranged for parents. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] attended with my brother [REDACTED], I was disappointed that [REDACTED] had accompanied them as I wanted time to talk alone with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
34. There was music in the courtyard and I was told to sell raffle tickets which [REDACTED] eventually took over as I wanted to spend time with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. The residents of Newton Stewart had been invited, and on later reflection I believe that this event was a means for the school to re-brand itself. [REDACTED] at one point had all the kids lined up and he was shouting at us. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] appeared from around a corner and enquired if everything was all right. [REDACTED] appeared to be intimidated by their presence.
35. [REDACTED] used to make my parents feel guilty by saying that he had saved my life after I took an overdose [REDACTED]. The reason for [REDACTED] saying such a thing, was that the Rottweiler dog that I had looked after and had regularly taken for walks had been taken from me by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] at the time promised to get me another dog, but I didn't believe him. Eventually [REDACTED] and I found a springer spaniel called Shandy which [REDACTED] allowed me to keep. On one occasion when [REDACTED] was having a go at me, Shandy bit him and he kicked the dog down the stairs. I went home for the weekend and when I returned I found that he had got rid of Shandy. I loved the dog and I was devastated.

Family contact

36. Every month I would be allowed to go home for the weekend and also in the holidays.
37. If [REDACTED] ever had any interaction with [REDACTED] KXJ, I could see that he was frightened of [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] KXJ was very different when dealing with adults.
38. [REDACTED] did visit on one occasion, which was a progress meeting.

Running away

39. I ran away on at least seven occasions and travelled hundreds of miles to places like Blackpool and the Dumfries and Galloway hills. I caught hypothermia. The mountain rescue team found us.
40. I recall that on one occasion that having secreted outdoor clothes in a cupboard I ran away to Blackpool, a place that I was familiar with having spent family holiday's there. I broke into a self-contained holiday flat we had used before and as it was winter I felt confident that the flat wouldn't be used until the summer. I however was seen and caught and taken to the local Police Station, I refused my details but eventually they found out who I was. The Police had every chance to ask me why I had run away but they didn't. [KXJ] was sent to pick me up and every twenty minutes he would stop on our journey back to the school and hit me across the face, blood was streaming down my face. I remember stopping in a country lane and he got out and battered me, one of the older kids [REDACTED] was sat in the front seat and saw everything. [KXJ] used to get the older kids to control us, they didn't want to do it but they had to.
41. I was friends with a boy called [REDACTED]. On one occasion [REDACTED] had been battered by [KXJ] and we decided to run away. We ran into the hills and the forest and we were away for two days. We were exhausted from running and we were wet and frozen cold having tried and failed to cross a river because [REDACTED] couldn't swim. We later discovered that we had been suffering from hypothermia having tried to shelter in a tractor and we ended up in log cabin that we had found. I decided to climb a tree to see where we were, and as I went out a dog appeared and we were discovered by the mountain rescue team. I told them all about [KXJ] and his brutal physical abuse. We were put into a jeep and eventually we were reunited with the school staff and one of the army rescuers actually told one of the staff members called Rhona McBriarty to put her arms around us. We were taken to the Dumfries and Galloway hospital.
42. If you absconded from the school you would be made to wear your pyjamas and slippers all week and you weren't allowed out at the weekends and you would be made to do more work.

Abuse at Monken Hadley

43. Mr [KXJ] would thump you if you didn't eat your porridge at breakfast time. I can recall seeing children being grabbed by their hair onto the floor and being dragged away from the dining room. The thumping and beating would last about fifteen minutes and when the children returned they had black eyes and they were shaking with fear. He would slap you on the face, punch you and kick you and grab you by the hair and run with you. This didn't happen to me because I always ate my food and [KXJ] knew [] was my dad.
44. [KXJ] at times during the night would come into the rooms shouting for us all to get up. We would then go outside into the yard in all weathers to do military exercises. I particularly remember a time when it was snowing and he made us lie down and raise our legs off the ground, I could hear kids screaming because he was kicking them. A girl called [] couldn't do it and he made her run around the yard whilst he kicked her and dragged her by the hair, she was only wearing pyjamas.
45. I had a friend called [], and [] really hated him to the point when he openly talked about killing [KXJ]. I remember on one occasion [KXJ] kicked the living daylights out of [], blood was streaming down his face.
46. I later learnt that [KXJ] had raped a girl called [], [] had learning difficulties. I also learnt that [KXJ] raped a girl called [], apparently [] as a result took an overdose and nearly died. I later read the court papers as he appeared in court for this. Due to the time elapsing he only received two years in prison.
47. On one occasion [] was lining up for breakfast and I saw [KXJ] grab her by the hair and he proceeded to punch and kick her until she was bruised all over. The other staff knew what was going on, and not one of them did anything. When you saw [KXJ] with [] I remember thinking that he was acting as if she was his girlfriend.
48. If [KXJ] had beaten and bruised a child, very often an excuse would be made to keep the child at the school to prevent the parents from seeing the injuries. I recall that on

one occasion I was due to go home but I had received a severe battering from KXJ and my eye was badly closed, the member of staff Liz Taylor was present when it happened. Knowing that [REDACTED] would insist that I went home Mr HSO had phoned [REDACTED] stating that I had provoked Mr KXJ and that his sovereign ring had accidentally clipped my face causing an injury to my eye.

49. On returning home with HSO, [REDACTED] my brother asked me what had happened to my face and I lied by saying that I had fallen out of bed. HSO was in the kitchen trying to placate [REDACTED] for my injuries. [REDACTED] came in to where I was and saw my face and she went back into the kitchen and told HSO how horrified she was about my injuries and that she was taking me to a doctor and then to the Police.
50. I was taken to our local doctor, and he advised [REDACTED] to report the assault to the head of the Social Services a man called John Knox. I eventually I told [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] the true story about how I had received the injuries, [REDACTED] was enraged and threatened to go into the school and sort KXJ out. [REDACTED] also promised that I wouldn't have to go back to Monken Hadley. After [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] had alerted the head of the Strathclyde Social Services John Knox to my eye injury, a large meeting was held and a deal was struck so that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] wouldn't go to the Police. The outcome of the Social Services meeting was that KXJ had to apologise to me and he had to move out of a [REDACTED] and promise not to assault me again. I was led to believe that I wouldn't have to go back to the school but I was told that I would have to, I felt betrayed.
51. If we couldn't sweep the leaves in the yard in autumn properly, KXJ would punch you and drag you to the ground as a punishment. It didn't happen to me, but I witnessed other children being beaten.
52. If we were ever out in the school minibus with KXJ driving, he would make us all chant a song. The song would start with KXJ saying "who is our leader?" and we would have to respond by saying "Ginger is our leader". If you didn't join in KXJ would stop the bus and pull you out, and he would slap your face and bang your head against the side of the bus. KXJ was forcing kids to worship him.

53. As part of the schools PE lesson [KXJ] would make you run around the woods and run up and down the football pitch, if you couldn't do it [KXJ] would hit the kids around their heads. On one occasion a boy called [REDACTED] who was fourteen was running up and down the hill and he collapsed. [REDACTED] was watching from her window when she witnessed [KXJ] kicking [REDACTED] and he later died. I am aware that [REDACTED] knew about the incident also. I told the Police when they came to see me.
54. I recall that [KXJ] threw [REDACTED] down the stairs and she broke her leg.
55. A boy called [REDACTED] was dangled by [KXJ] over a balcony. All the other kids told me this when I returned, having run away to Blackpool. [REDACTED] also confirmed this to me [REDACTED] about four or five years ago.
56. A house father called [KXL] once turned an industrial fire hose on me in a shower cubicle.
57. [KXJ] regularly verbally abused female members of staff, he was a tyrant.

Reporting of abuse at Monken Hadley School

58. I remember telling [KWG] who was a teacher of the middle group of children about Mr [KXJ] and the physical abuse to the children. [KWG] obviously told him what I had said because I was later thumped by [KXJ]. [KWG] also intimated that she kept money in her drawer just in case I needed it to run away.
59. I would later confide in Kathy McGuinness a staff member at the school and Nan the cleaner what was going on, they were both lovely.
60. I discussed going to the Police about the abuse with a boy called [REDACTED]. But we were prevented from doing so because [KXJ] regularly told us that he was friends with the Police.

Leaving Monken Hadley School

61. After the meeting with Social Services, [KXJ] s behaviour towards me continued as before, and on one occasion just as I was leaving to go home for a visit he started to shout and scream at me in an aggressive way in one of the bedrooms. I had just taken enough from him and I shouted back at him and threatened to go to my dad and Mr Linnie. [KXJ] was shocked and stormed from the bedroom. I could see that the other kids were looking at me with respect and shock.
62. I returned home and immediately told [] and [] what had happened, they responded by saying that I wouldn't have to go back to the school. At the age of fourteen I never saw the school or [KXJ] again.
63. I later learnt that Monken Hadley had changed its name to Woodlands. This allowed Strathclyde Council not to go back on their word not to send children to Monken Hadley. They were in fact sending them to Woodlands. As far as I am aware they continued to send children to the Woodlands.
64. A decision was reached between Mark Holmes the Social Worker and a Mrs Drover from Social Services to send me to Falkland House in Fife, which was a List G school. [] and [] were legally bound to have me educated and a decision was made that I had to go.
65. I attended an initial visit to Falkland House which was arranged with [] and Mark Holmes. Whilst there I met with the headmaster Mr Quirry. The whole place was very different and Mr Quirry promised that I would be looked after, and I agreed to have a go.

Falkland House Fife

66. Falkland House was two mansions joined together, just like a stately home and it was like something out of Harry Potter. The house had massive rooms and the downstairs was mainly used for storage. Apparently Mr Quirry had taken over it from the monks

who had owned it previously, when it was called St Ninians. There was a massive games room and a staff room. The whole place had a very relaxed atmosphere. I shared a room with [REDACTED] who was from Livingston and boys called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was a bully and he used to bully [REDACTED] until I confronted him, and from then on he changed.

Staff

67. There was Eric Nicholls, Julie Langstone and Elaine Butler, who were ex-police officers, Mrs Duff and Mr ^{KWI} [REDACTED] who were all house parents. Eric Nicholls didn't have to be physical with any of the children as his word was enough to calm us down. Mrs Quirry used to administer any medication that was required to the children.
68. The teachers were Anne Donnelly, who I later found out was in fact Lady Anne Creighton Stuart. She was married to Lord Ninian from the Falkland palace. Mr Maxwell taught History and Maths, and Mr Miller taught English. There was only about seven or eight children initially who were aged between ten and sixteen and we were all taught together. Although the numbers grew steadily whilst I was there. I did learn things whilst I was at Falkland house.

Mornings and bedtimes

69. Eric Nicholls and later Elaine Butler and Julian Langston would get us up in the morning, and we would have chores like sweeping and cleaning and then we would shower. At 10:00 pm we would go to bed and Barbara John would supervise us at night. She was nice and would generally chat to us at night until about 2:00 am, she was about seventy.

Mealtimes/Food

70. We would be given chicken and fish pie at Falkland House which was proper food.

Washing/bathing

71. We could use the showers and bath whenever you wanted to use them, and Mr Quirry would appear at times when we were showering. Eric Nicholls used to appear and say to Mr Quirry that he will deal with us. It was almost as if Eric Nicholls previous experience as a police Officer was coming into play in suspecting that Mr Quirry's motives were not that of an innocent observer.

Clothing/uniform

72. The school uniform was a black or grey jumper with a pale blue shirt.

Leisure time

73. There was a large games room that we could use and we could use the weights.

Trips and holidays

74. I can remember going on trips to Pittenweem, Falkirk, Kinkardine and St Andrews. On one particular occasion I was taken on a road trip around Aberdeenshire with Mr [KWI] my relationship with [] had broken down and I didn't want to go home at that time. During the trip Mr [KWI] took lots of photographs of me.

Religious instruction

75. I used to go to the Falkland Palace Church, the building was beautiful and really old and I used my visit as an excuse to get away from the house for a time.

Family Contact

76. I was there for five or six weeks at a time and then I would go home for a visit.
77. [] did visit with Mrs Dover on one occasion, which was to ascertain my progress.

Personal possessions

78. I had a drawer and a locker at Falkland House to place my personal items in.

Abuse at Falkland House

79. Whilst I was on the trip to Aberdeenshire with Mr [KWI] he took about one hundred and fifty pictures of me. We saw the Royals at Balmoral and he had taken pictures. I asked Mr [KWI] if I could see the pictures he had taken and he lied by saying there was something wrong with the spool and there were no pictures, and he believed that I had taken the spool. Mr Quirry must have overheard my conversation with [KWI], and I told him that I had seen the Royals and that he had taken loads of pictures of me. Mr Quirry must have confronted [KWI] about the pictures.
80. Whilst lying in bed sometime later, [KWI] appeared and he climbed on top of me and grabbed me around the neck. Mr Nicholls was passing and I heard him say calmly "That is enough Mr [KWI]". The next thing I knew was that I was in the games room with [] and I overheard Mr Quirry in the staff room next door speaking to Mr [KWI]. Mr Quirry was saying that his behaviour towards me was unacceptable, and he subsequently must have sacked him for grabbing hold of me as I never saw him again. It was clear that Mr Nicholls had informed him of what he had seen.

Life after being in care

81. I left Falkland House at the age of sixteen and returned to live with [] and []. I very much struggled being back at home, I didn't really know the local kids and I used to cycle for miles just to get away from the house and the area.
82. I eventually ended up at a bedsit in [] Kelvindale which was owned by [] who [] knew. I felt lonely and isolated and I became depressed and I eventually moved into [].

83. A man called [REDACTED] who [REDACTED] knew, used to visit the house regularly, [REDACTED] had learning difficulties. I never felt comfortable around [REDACTED] but he kept inviting me to his bedsit which [REDACTED]'s sister [REDACTED] owned.
84. I visited [REDACTED] at his bedsit and when I did he raped me. When I started shouting he placed a sock in my mouth and he said that if I told [REDACTED] he would never believe me, as I had never been wanted by them. I never told [REDACTED] because he would have killed [REDACTED]. I was raped by [REDACTED] three or four times over a period of seven months, twice of which were at my house. I thought about telling [REDACTED]'s mum but I didn't, because if [REDACTED] had found out he would have killed him.
85. I eventually ran away to London by getting on a train to Kings Cross. For a short while I slept rough under Blackfriars Bridge, my only companion was a pet garter snake and I ate food when I could, I was totally alone and frightened. After a while I phoned [REDACTED] and she arranged for [REDACTED] to purchase a rail ticket for me to return home. I stayed home for a while but things were difficult between me and [REDACTED], always arguing, always friction.
86. Jan Marley the Social Worker became involved with me as I couldn't stay with [REDACTED] any longer. It was Xmas and she was frantic to find me a place and she found me supported lodgings with a [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] in a three bedroom cottage in Shettleston. I felt discarded again. The cottage was immaculate, there was a very modern kitchen, the best carpets and television, and they appeared to be genuinely pleased to see me. [REDACTED] was about fifty and I would describe him as being a fat slob, [REDACTED] hardly said a word, she always referred things to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] appeared to me to be very false, very jovial and he had a false laugh. [REDACTED] was arranging payment for my care with Jan Marley, but [REDACTED] was adamant that he didn't want payment.
87. Within hours of arriving I was sexually abused and raped by [REDACTED]. I recall on occasions being in the shower and he poured a bottle of bubble bath all over my head, and when I had cleared the foam away I could see that he was urinating all over me and laughing. I only stayed with the [REDACTED]s for three months, but I was raped by

█████ nearly every day. █████ would try and get me to drink whiskey in an attempt to relax me. █████ owned three shops, two were shoe shops and there was a TV shop in his brother's name, which was an Inland Revenue scam. I would work for █████ in his shops. I recall that on one occasion a man who was known to █████ arrived in a white Vauxhall car. The man came into his shop on a Sunday and █████ allowed him to rape me whilst he watched.

88. I am pretty sure that █████ knew what was going on over the months I was there. █████ would say to █████ about having some tea and it would be her code to leave the room and for her go to bed. █████ would then rape me.
89. Eventually █████ approached Jan Morley and told her that I had been stealing money from █████'s purse in an effort to get me moved, I think █████ thought I was about to report him for the sexual abuse. I denied stealing the money and I informed Jan immediately about the abuse I was suffering at the hands of █████ Jan's response was that she had suspected that abuse was occurring, but that these things happen.
90. As I was still aged sixteen or seventeen Jan Marley had a legal obligation to find accommodation for me. I therefore spent two to three days in a hostel in █████ Bridgeton and I was very depressed. I then moved to supported lodgings in Belhaven █████ with █████ and █████ where I spent two or three days and I was comfortable. I also stayed for a while with a couple called █████ and █████ who had two young sons █████ and █████.
91. The last time that I was in Scotland was when I had just turned nineteen, and I subsequently moved to England. I have had many casual jobs over the years, but I have spent fifteen years working for the Citizens Advice. Eventually becoming deputy manager, in the Midlands and I have held professional advisory posts in hospitals.
92. In 2014 I was diagnosed with the life threatening hereditary heart condition Brugada, and I have been off work ever since.

Impact

- 93. I constantly re-wind the abuse in my head, it never leaves me.
- 94. When I was living under [KXJ]'s regime I couldn't learn anything and my education suffered.
- 95. When I relate what has happened to me I feel embarrassed and I feel that I am a young boy again. Talking about my experiences really freaks me out.
- 96. When I have dreams and waken during the night, it's as if I am there suffering the abuse again.
- 97. I have had anxiety over the abuse that I have suffered, and at times have questioned why any of this happened to me.

Reporting of Abuse

- 98. I reported the abuse which I had suffered to the Metropolitan Police in 2014. DC Mike Cassidy interviewed me for over four and a half hours, and at the conclusion I was told that the interview CD would be sent to the Scottish Police for them to investigate. I was later contacted by Mike Cassidy to say that my interview had gone missing from their server. I had to go through the ordeal again and be interviewed. The CD was couriered to Scotland and I received confirmation from Police Scotland that they had received it.
- 99. The Police wanted me to be part of a group action against [KXJ] but I wanted to stand alone and face him. Kennedy, the Procurator Fiscal, dragged his feet in preparing the case and the judge stated that because of the delay in prosecution [KXJ] would only receive two years. I had wrote to Kennedy reminding him of the time factor.

100. I also reported the sexual abuse by [REDACTED], but the Police reported that having interviewed him and receiving a “no comment response” that there was insufficient evidence to proceed. I also disclosed the abuse at the hands of [REDACTED] the Police reported that they couldn’t find him, he had disappeared. Having disclosed my abuse to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], I always wondering whether they had a hand in [REDACTED]’s disappearance.

Treatment/support

101. In 2015 I visited my doctor and sought help for depression, and she subsequently referred me to a specialist unit in Kings Cross London. I attended the unit every week for over a year, and I was diagnosed with suffering from PTSD.

Records

102. I employed a lawyer to assist me in recovering records of my time in care. I received a large box which contained files which showed that members of staff had colluded to discredit me. I have since destroyed these files, as I wasn’t able to accommodate them in the premises that I am currently living in.

Lessons to be Learned

103. There should be a committee or statutory organisation set up to have a vision to change things within the care system.
104. There should be a fresh approach to children in care and a need to reduce the opportunities for people to abuse children.
105. People who have been subjected to abuse should be brought in to work with powerful people like the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry to improve things.
106. A person should be embedded into every institution to oversee the children in care.

107. 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.

KXH

Signed. 

Dated... 29/10/21