

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

KVA

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is KVA. My date of birth is 1970. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. When I was born, my parents and lived in Crossgates in Fife. I don't have any brothers or sisters, although I wasn't a spoilt child. Dad was a lorry driver and a plant operator.
3. I went to Crossgates nursery and primary school and I was a bit hyperactive. I liked climbing trees and I found it hard to keep friendships. I didn't understand the concept of personal space because I had no brothers or sisters.
4. Mum gave me good food and good clothes and both mum and dad were quite firm. Sometimes they were over-protective and other children picked up on that. I think it must have seemed quite strange to them.
5. I was given my immunisation injections when I was about two or three years old. Mum always said I was a perfect kid up to then, but after I got the injections it was as if I changed overnight. She said that I was a great baby and she never had a sleepless night, but then after I got the immunisations I was a nightmare.
6. My brain was always racing so much that I couldn't sit still for two minutes. I would see my mum cleaning the windows and I would think I could clean them too. I would

be punished, but it would be stupid punishments, for example mum would tie me to my bed with washing line, which there was no need for. I ended up destroying my headboard because I was so frustrated. She didn't do it to hurt me, just to protect me and stop me climbing up onto the window sill.

7. I was sent to be assessed somewhere and I was told that the diagnosis was that I was hyperactive. That's no diagnosis at all. I was prescribed some medicine that I had to take every morning that tasted really sweet and made me feel really sick. I think that it was probably 'Ritalin' and I asked my mum later if it had been, although she denied it was.
8. I did two years at Crossgates Primary School and then I went into primary three at Foulford, because we had moved house to [REDACTED] Cowdenbeath. Even at Foulford I wasn't coping because I was hyperactive and they couldn't cope with me. I was told I was easily distracted and I was a distraction to the others. I was put on a part-time timetable at Foulford and I didn't want to leave. I quite liked primary three, but they just didn't like me.
9. My Dad was working up north at that time and only came home at weekends so my gran and grandad would come and help out. Mum used to tell me I needed to stop my behaviour, but it was just me and I couldn't.
10. By the time we were about to leave Crossgates plans had already been put in place for me to go to Ovenstone Residential School at Pittenweem in Fife. I would have been about seven years old at that time.
11. I know now that, along with the head of education in Fife, Mr More, it had been my parents' decision for me to go to Ovenstone. There was no social work involvement, but a Mrs Cowie, who was in charge of child guidance at Lumphinnans in Cowdenbeath had been pushing for me to go and everything was done without me being involved.

Ovenstone Residential School, Pittenweem, Fife

12. I had been taken to Ovenstone for a visit by my mum, gran and grandad before I went there and I did not like the place. I was still seven years old and the moment I saw it I had a bad feeling about it.
13. All the bikes were out when we went to visit. Anybody seeing them would have thought it was great. It wasn't like that at all because we never got to play on those bikes.
14. Ovenstone was set in its own grounds with a grass area in front of the main building. In the grounds were the ruins a massive castle and two huts where the school classes were held. We never got to go in the ruins or play near them.
15. The building itself had two wings on either side with a porch at the front. The wing on the left was the good wing and the wing on the right was horrible. There were stairs going up on either side of the porch to each wing and steps up to a set of double doors in the middle. On the other side of the double doors was the headmaster's office on the right and another set of double doors straight ahead that led to the canteen where we all ate. The headmaster's office had a door and a window looking out onto the porch.
16. Mr ^{GBB} was ^{SNR} of the place along with his wife. You always used to see him walking around the school with a cigarette and driving his Triumph TR7 sports car, if he wasn't away scuba diving.
17. We had to refer to all the staff as 'auntie' and 'uncle' and among the rest of the staff there was Uncle Ken, who was okay. I would say he was firm but fair. There was also Auntie ^{KUV}, who was nasty, and Uncle ^{KUE}. They were all houseparents and were on shifts, changing about working dayshift and working later in the day. Their responsibilities as houseparents were to take care of the children, make sure that they ate their meals and basically do what a normal parent did.

18. Uncle ^{KUE} had a house in the grounds where he lived with his wife and his daughter and son. I'm not sure how old he was, but he was slightly built with dark hair, long sideburns and a thin face. At first I thought Uncle ^{KUE} was alright because he didn't speak nasty to us, but I came to realise he was horrible.
19. As well as the houseparents, there was Miss Merrilees, who was lovely. She didn't live there, she stayed somewhere near Anstruther. There were also a few staff that used to do the laundry, cook and clean. One that I remember was Diane who worked in the kitchen, she was nice.
20. There were only two girls at Ovenstone, me and a girl called [REDACTED] who would have been about my age, seven or eight, maybe a bit younger. I think another girl with red hair came just as I left. Although there were only two girls, I would have said there would have been about forty boys, although I'm not sure exactly how many, ranging in age from five up to about eleven years old.

Routine at Ovenstone Residential School

First day

21. After the visit we went home and it was a few months before I actually went to Ovenstone to stay and I think I would just have turned eight years old. I take it preparations had to be made.
22. My first day there was absolutely horrendous. Mum and my grandparents drove me there and we were met by a woman who I found out later was called Auntie ^{KUV}. She told me she was my houseparent and I had to call her 'Auntie ^{KUV}'.
23. As soon as mum and my grandparents left, Auntie ^{KUV} was nasty to me. She ordered me to go and get a shower, even though I'd had a bath before I left home and I was immaculate when I arrived. I had to wash my hair with medicated shampoo.

24. Once I'd had my shower I was given different clothes to wear. It felt strange. I couldn't understand what was going on and it was quite scary. I was introduced to [REDACTED] and told that I would be sharing a room with her in the wing on the right.

Mornings and bedtime

25. In the room I shared with [REDACTED] were two single beds, a sink and a cupboard, which just had shelves in it, there were no hanging rails. The boys had a dormitory, which was a big room that about eighteen of them slept in. It was like a hospital ward, lined with beds and wardrobes on either side. It was the same on the other wing.
26. Whichever staff member was on duty would come and chap us up in the morning and then we would all go and get washed and dressed. Once we were dressed, we would go in an orderly fashion to the canteen for breakfast.
27. Every morning after breakfast, we had to stand in single file on the steps at the porch and each of us had to get our hair combed by whichever houseparent was on duty. They used the same comb for everyone. Afterwards we all had to clean our shoes before we walked across to the school huts.
28. Bedtime was quite early, I would say about eight o'clock in the evening. Everyone went to bed at the same time, whatever age they were. We never got to watch 'Top of the Pops', because it was on too late. Everybody got told by whichever member of staff was on that it was time to go to bed and we got our pyjamas on and got our supper.
29. I shared a room with [REDACTED] for about a year-and-a-half and then I was moved to the other wing. I felt a bit better when I was moved because the boys in that wing were nicer, I was in a room on my own and I felt safe.
30. Uncle Ken was the housemaster in the other wing and he was absolutely fine. He was a polite man and he was firm, but he was fair.

31. I don't know why I was moved to the good wing, but before long I went back to the room I shared with [REDACTED]. The first night I spent there, [REDACTED] came into my bed beside me. She was scared and she wet my bed.

Mealtimes/Food

32. We all used to eat all our meals together in the canteen. Diane, who worked in the kitchens used to go round and wipe the tables down. She was nice.
33. The food at Ovenstone was horrible, like school dinners. Breakfast was toast, cereal and a hard-boiled egg. I can't eat a boiled egg to this day. We went back to the canteen for lunch, which was soup mostly. For evening meal we got mashed potato a lot of the time with braised meat or mince or fish. We didn't get chips very often. We never got an evening meal on a Friday because we went home for the weekend.
34. We ate out of different coloured melamine bowls. Some were lemon and some were blue. I liked the lemon one because it was bright and cheery and it may me feel good, I thought the blue one was awfully clinical. It sounds silly, but these are the things that matter when you're a child.
35. The only meal that was good was supper because they would make up big jugs of drinking chocolate and 'Horlicks'. We never got a biscuit though, just a drink.
36. If anyone didn't eat what they were given it would be taken off them and put down to them for the next meal. That happened to me with the boiled egg, but it was only put down once at lunchtime, I never got it for the evening meal.

Washing/bathing

37. We all had showers nearly every day. There was only one shower for everybody on each wing to use and we were all given separate times to go. The shower was stinking, but then twenty kids were having to use it. It wasn't supervised at all, we just washed ourselves.

Clothing/uniform

- 38. We never got to wear our own clothes. I had my clothes for going home on a Friday and for the rest of the time we were given second hand clothes like nasty old wellingtons, tee shirts and shorts and we had a uniform to wear for school. I had a grey skirt and a grey nylon shirt and we had to change as soon as we finished school.
- 39. We never had a massive set of clothes. It wasn't right, they were given all this money for us and all we got was nasty second hand clothes.

Leisure time

- 40. We never got to ride on the bikes that were at Ovenstone. Most of our leisure time was spent in the livingroom reading books or playing games like jigsaws. There were shelves in the livingroom that had toys and books on them and there was a TV in there too.
- 41. We could also play 'hide-and-seek' in the grounds, which was okay, but we weren't allowed to play on the grass area outside. The only time we were allowed on the grass was when they had a sports day and all the parents came. It was all for show though.
- 42. I believe that my aunt and uncle donated a big box of toys while I was there, but I don't think I saw what they'd given. They later told me that they'd donated tennis rackets and I never once got to play tennis.
- 43. After teatime on a Tuesday we went to gym at the Cosmos community centre in St Andrews. On Wednesday we went swimming at the pool in Glenrothes. When we went to the gym or swimming we had to wear red knee socks with garters and red shorts.

44. In the summer Uncle **KUE** would take us out of the school grounds and walk us up to the top of the road where we would play 'kick-the-can'. He took us all to his house one day as well, but I don't know why.

Trips and holidays

45. During the time I had been moved to the other wing, a few of us went on a camping trip in tents for a couple of days with Uncle Ken and Auntie **KUV**. There was about fifteen of us and we all went in the school minibus. It was good and I enjoyed it, although I can't remember where we went. I don't remember if there were any other trips.

School

46. We went to school in two classrooms that were in huts outside. We all had to stand outside the huts in single file before we went through the door, one-by-one. Whoever slept in one wing went to one of the classrooms and the other wing went to the other classroom. There were maybe about ten or fifteen kids in each class and we were taught the normal curriculum, although all the children were different ages.
47. Mrs **IAL**, **SNR** wife, was my teacher and the education was not good. I was two years behind in my education before I went into Ovenstone and I was four years behind when I left. I didn't understand the schoolwork, especially the maths and I was scared. I used to have nightmares about going to school. I used to lie in bed thinking that if I got something wrong Mrs **IAL** was going to be angry and I was going to get smacked.
48. There was a chart in the corridor that they put a red star on for every day that you had a good day. If you'd committed a misdemeanour one day and you'd been put outside the classroom, they would put a brown or a black circle on that day. If you got a silver star, that was good and they always said that if you got a whole row of gold stars you got to leave the school.

Healthcare

49. A dental bus came into the school and I got my teeth taken out, but there was no nurse at Ovenstone. I never needed any medical treatment when I was there and I don't know what happened if anybody did need some.

Religious instruction

50. We were home at weekends so we never went to church, but we had to say the Lord's Prayer before meals. I was made to write it out as a punishment by Mrs IAL because I was finding school so difficult.

Birthdays and Christmas

51. The staff would celebrate our birthdays and I got a cake when it was my birthday, but I think it was just them keeping up appearances.
52. We were always at home for the holidays, including Christmas, but they did take us to a pantomime in a town near the home, I can't remember where. We were also taken for a Christmas meal at a place called the 'Craw's Nest' somewhere.

Visits/Inspections/Review of Detention

53. The only visitor I got was a speech therapist who came once a week for pretty much all the time I was at Ovenstone. I had trouble pronouncing some words and it did help.
54. There were no inspections of the place while I was there and nobody official ever came to see me or speak to me.

Family contact

55. I went home every weekend and at holidays. It used to be horrible because all the children in my street would see me getting off the yellow minibus and call me names.
56. My parents split up while I was in Ovenstone so I would go and see my mum one weekend and my dad the next. They weren't coping with me being in a home so they decided to split up for a while and I got the blame for that. Apparently my dad hadn't been giving my mum any money and I remember listening to them arguing about maintenance.
57. One Sunday I really didn't want to go back to the school and wouldn't get in the van. Even though I protested I was shoved in and taken back.

Personal possessions/pocket money

58. We had nothing that we could call our own. No cuddly toys, nothing like that. We weren't allowed to bring anything in with us either and we never got to keep anything we might have been given.
59. Every Tuesday a metallic green estate car used to come to Ovenstone and the driver would open the boot where there were trays of sweets inside. I'm not sure who the man was, he maybe had a shop in town. When he came, the house parents would walk away with a 'Mars Bar' and we were given two pence by Uncle Ken to spend on the sweets.

Running away

60. I never ran away, but I did think about it one time. I was standing talking to a few of the boys outside his office, talking about getting smacked by Mr GBB and we all started talking about taking the bikes and heading off, but we never did.

Emotional care/support

61. Miss Merrilees was a nice lady. She put things on the wall of my room from home to give me a bit of comfort. That was the only comfort I got though. There was nothing from Aunt KUV or Uncle KUE

Work

62. For all the stuff we had, every Friday we had a room inspection. Whoever was on duty would come and inspect our cupboard and it had to be neat and tidy. We also had to polish our shoes outside every evening after school.
63. Mr and Mrs GBB-IAL had two Afghan hounds and they would get boys out of their beds in the middle of the night to walk them round the perimeter of the grounds. I never had to do that, but I know some of the boys did.

Discipline

64. If you were in trouble you were sent to SNR Mr GBB. You would have to stand outside his office between the two sets of double doors that led from the porch to the canteen. He would come out of his office and look to see who was standing there and no matter what it was for, he would take them into his office. It happened to me a few times, although I'm not sure how many.
65. In his office, Mr GBB would make us stand two square tiles away from his desk and bend over, then he would smack us four or five times on our backside with his slipper. He would always do it either by lifting my skirt and hitting me on my pants or, if I had trousers on, over my trousers. It could have been for something as silly as picking your nose or if there was boot polish on a door, the punishment didn't match the crime.
66. One time I was sent away from the canteen for something stupid, I don't remember what it was. I had to stand outside Mr GBB office, but he never gave me the slipper on that occasion instead he made me go round the whole building with cloths, cleaning boot polish off the doors.

67. I had to write the Lord's Prayer out every night because I couldn't do the work. I didn't know how to do the work, or how to concentrate and I didn't understand the work.

Bed Wetting

68. If you were a bedwetter you got blankets and sheets and if you weren't a bedwetter you got a quilt. I don't think there was any punishment though.

Abuse at Ovenstone Residential School

69. Some of the kids at Ovenstone got treated really badly, it wasn't just me. [REDACTED] got picked on by Auntie ^{KUV} [REDACTED] and Uncle ^{KUE} [REDACTED]. They used to humiliate her and she was nervous.
70. Auntie ^{KUV} [REDACTED] smacked children because they wouldn't conform to her way, or because of the way they spoke or because they wouldn't give her, her full title. She smacked me with her hand on the back of my head after I'd been there for just a few days because I hadn't called her the right name.
71. One time when we were away swimming I saw Mr ^{GBB} [REDACTED] smack a boy in front of everybody. I don't know what the boy had done, if anything, but Mr ^{GBB} [REDACTED] yanked him out of the pool and smacked him hard on the backside. It was horrible.
72. I remember seeing Mr ^{GBB} [REDACTED] smack a kid with a belt. I don't know what the boy had done, but I saw him hit the boy on the backside with a belt from his diving gear. I don't know how many times he hit him.
73. Before I got moved to the good wing, [REDACTED] and I were in our room one day and she was twirling her hair between her fingers. Uncle ^{KUE} [REDACTED] saw her and made her come out of the room and stand in the corridor and wear a green 'tammy' hat. There was no need for that, it was humiliating in front of all the other kids.

74. I think I was still about eight years old at this time. After he sent [REDACTED] out of our room, Uncle KUE [REDACTED] came in and made sure there was nobody else there. I was standing between the two beds when he came through the door and asked me to take my underpants off. I did and he proceeded to touch my genitals. I asked him what he was doing and he told me he was just making sure there was nothing wrong with me. He never took his clothes off at all.
75. He never did that to me again and not long after I was moved to the other wing. I think he must have been doing stuff to [REDACTED] while I was in the other wing though. She never said, but the fact that she came into my bed and wet the bed on my first night back in that wing makes me think that. She was obviously scared.
76. My uncle was a policeman and he abused me as well during the time I was staying at Ovenstone. His name is [REDACTED] and he still stays in Dunfermline. I was on a home visit for the weekend and was in his front garden in Dunfermline when he ordered me to take my white cotton vest off. He never touched me, but it didn't feel right.
77. Mrs IAL [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] wife who was the school teacher, was evil. She would punish me for getting things wrong by giving me lines. She made me feel inadequate and would tell me I couldn't do things. I could never get the confidence to do anything.
78. She ordered a boy to put his hands on me. The boy was called [REDACTED] and he was ten or eleven years old and bigger than me. He had mongoloid features, dark skin and dark brown eyes and he used to slaver all the time. I was doing my work in class when he walked past and whacked me with a wooden ruler.
79. I put my hand up to tell Mrs IAL [REDACTED] and after I told her she sent for her husband to come down to the school. Mr GBB [REDACTED] came and took [REDACTED] away and I presume he must have smacked him. When [REDACTED] came back Mrs IAL [REDACTED] told him that he should give me a "good thumping".

80. That was on a Friday and later on, while I was cleaning the shelves out in my room, [REDACTED] came in. [REDACTED] wasn't there at the time, which was strange. Boys were not allowed in our room, but he came in and started kicking me. I went home that night and my mum couldn't get over the bruises that were on my body.

Reporting of abuse at Ovenstone Residential School

81. I had a bad habit of telling fibs when I was a child and I knew my mum wouldn't believe me if I told her anything. How do you tell your parents something like that? As a result I never spoke about what happened to anybody while I was there, not even [REDACTED]. It just wasn't something I could talk about.
82. My mum did ask me about the bruises she saw on my body when I went home at the weekend, but I just told her that I had fallen. I've no idea where all those bruises did actually come from, I can't remember, but I wasn't one for falling over all the time. I feel now that something more must have happened to me at Ovenstone, but I can't remember.

Leaving Ovenstone Residential School

83. I'm not sure how long I was at Ovenstone, certainly over a year but less than two. I was lying in bed on the Sunday evening after the Friday that [REDACTED] had come into my room and battered me. I was unable to sleep because I was worried about [REDACTED] and about getting punished at school by Mrs IAL [REDACTED] because I couldn't do the maths.
84. I was asked to get up and go to the office and as I walked down the corridor I could see my mum and dad in Mr GBB [REDACTED] office. They had got back together by that time and they gave me a choice of whether I wanted to go home in the morning or there and then. I told them I wanted to go home right away.

85. My parents later told me that they had received an anonymous phone call telling them they had better get down to the school. Whoever it was told my parents that their daughter was getting ill-treated, although they never said what was actually happening to me.
86. I think it must have been a member of staff that phoned my mum and dad. Nobody else would have known their number. We've never found out to this day who made the call though.
87. Mum taught me from home for a wee while until an opening came up at unit within Lumphinnans School in Cowdenbeath. The unit within the school was for children that had social needs and learning difficulties and the staff were lovely and built up the children's trust. I did what was asked of me and I enjoyed it there, I was able to catch up with my work. It was a culture shock for me after the schooling at Ovenstone.
88. Mum still couldn't cope with me and she would pack me off with my dad. He would come down in the lorry and I would go to work with him.
89. I was at Lumphinnans for about two years from the end of primary six. I was told that if I stuck in at Lumphinnans and caught up with all my work I would get to go back to my old school. That was a big mistake. I went back to Foulford, but I didn't get on well there and I had a few problems.
90. After Foulford, high school was great and I loved it. I went to Beath High and there were a couple of bullies, but after being through what I had at Ovenstone I could handle them. I left in the May of my fourth year and, although I didn't manage to get any qualifications, I tried.

Life after being in care

91. When I left school I got a job in a hairdressers as an apprentice. The woman that owned the hairdressers knew my auntie and gave me a job and I felt fantastic. I always wanted to do either hairdressing, beauty or modelling.
92. I left the hairdressers the week before I turned sixteen because the owner sacked me. Someone had told her I had learning difficulties and she didn't like it. One day I wasn't feeling well because of period pains and she sent me home. I went home but I couldn't tell my mum, because I was too embarrassed. Later on, when I was feeling better, mum asked me to get something from the shops and the owner of the shop saw me. She used that against me and sacked me just before my sixteenth birthday.
93. After that I went to a local factory and worked there for about a year, making things for disabled children. I wanted to go into the army but mum wouldn't sign the papers. I got pregnant when I was seventeen and had my first child [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] 1988. I went to college in Edinburgh and did hairdressing for a year-and-a-half.
94. I got married at nineteen and moved down to Manchester after that and I never completed the course. My husband was a train guard and he transferred down there. I moved down with him and left [REDACTED] with my parents and I worked in a couple of hotels before I got a job with British Rail as well. [REDACTED] stayed with my parents because mum didn't think Manchester was a good place to bring him up. He was like a son to them.
95. When I turned twenty-one I split up from my husband and moved back up to Fife where I got another job in a factory and in different cafes as well. Childcare was proving a bit difficult at that time so I gave up the work and was a stay-at-home parent for quite a long time.
96. I've now got four children, [REDACTED], who was born on [REDACTED] 1991, [REDACTED], who was born on [REDACTED] 1998 and [REDACTED] who was born on [REDACTED] 2004. I've been treated badly by the men I have had relationships with and all of my children have got

different dads. If all their dads were put in a pot and melted down, you still wouldn't get a decent human being.

97. Around the time of the millennium, when [REDACTED] was about a year old, I started a course in hairdressing at Kirkcaldy college, which I finished in 2002. While I was doing that I got myself a cleaning job and after finishing the course I got another cleaning job in the ferry terminal at Rosyth and then further cleaning jobs at different places.
98. I discovered that I've got autism after I was given a late diagnosis of it. I wanted to go back to college, but I was scared. After more problems with a partner I moved into a women's refuge in West Lothian and finally decided to do something about going to college while I was there.
99. I got into Edinburgh College and I put up with bullies during the first year, but when I went back for the second year I nailed it. I was the class rep and I got on well with the other people in my class. I'm almost finished the course and for the first time I feel valued and respected by my teachers and the rest of my course. I have never had that before.

Impact

100. My experiences at Ovenstone have wrecked my life. I never got a chance with jobs or with relationships. It has affected me all this time and it's only now that I'm beginning to realise I'm not a victim any more, I'm a survivor.
101. It makes me feel angry now that I've woken up to what happened. It's like I've been sleeping through my life. If I'd been given the opportunities I now have I would be in a good job. I would have a good life and I would maybe be able to put Ovenstone behind me. Instead my life has been like a revolving door with everything that's happened to me.

102. When I went home at weekends from Ovenstone the local kids would see me getting off the yellow minibus. They wouldn't want to hang out with me and they would make faces as I was being driven away on a Sunday. It made me feel lonely. Isolated. Not good enough. I felt like a weirdo and a freak. I felt inferior to everyone else and I could never do anything right.
103. When I was sixteen I was very promiscuous because there had been so much going on my life. I found it hard to get boyfriends and as I got older it got even harder. I would go out with anybody just to feel wanted. I have four kids to four different dads because I've not been able to hold a relationship down properly. They couldn't deal with my autism or the kids that I had.
104. Men see my kindness as weakness and they use it against me. Even though I was so young when I first became pregnant I didn't want to terminate it. A big reason was that I felt a child was something I could have that I could nurture and care for as I hadn't been.
105. I've always felt I wasn't clever enough to go to college. I would see girls with books on anatomy and think I couldn't do that. After being told all through Ovenstone and for the rest of my life that I couldn't do things, I just didn't feel good enough.
106. I stopped communicating with my parents two years ago. I think it's shameful that my mother never believed what I was telling her was happening to me at Ovenstone. She didn't get me help or counselling. They sold their house and moved away, but didn't tell me where they were going.
107. The memories of my time at Ovenstone come back to me in waves. Sometimes when I'm in the house on my own and maybe having a drink, I reflect back to it. It never goes away.
108. It's horrible because one minute I could be feeling great and on top of the world and the next it all comes flooding back. I never take my guard down when I'm at work or

at college. When I walk through the college doors in the morning, I shut off to everything. The world that I have at home is a world away.

109. My memories come back all the time though, I have many flashbacks. I can still smell the medicated shampoo, see the clothes that we wore, smell [REDACTED] the boy that beat me up in my room, and I can still see the classroom. I can still feel what it was like staying there, not knowing when you were next going to get belted.
110. My time at Ovenstone has contributed to all the problems I have had throughout my life. I should never have been in that school to begin with, but what was going on in that school should never have been happening.

Treatment/Counselling

111. I've never had any counselling. My G.P. isn't very helpful. They just want to give me tablets, but that's not what I want. Tablets don't fix the problems. I do feel that I would like counselling now though.

112.

113.

Reporting of Abuse

114. Even though my parents had received the anonymous phone call saying I was being ill-treated at Ovenstone, they never asked me about it. I told my mum what had happened with KUE when I was sixteen because I got brave, but she still never believed me. Instead she slapped me across the face and told me I was telling lies.
115. I don't understand it. If my kid was coming home with bruises and I had got a call like that, I would know something was wrong. I would know from the way they behaved that something was not right. My mum has no maternal instincts.
116. In 2005 I reported what happened to me to DC Fiskin from Cupar police station. I felt I couldn't deal with it anymore. I felt that I'd been hiding from it and trying to sweep it under the carpet and I knew that was wrong.
117. DC Fiskin came to my house and took a statement from me, but a couple of months later she told me that her supervisor had said it couldn't be taken any further. I have since learned that the police no longer have my statement, although I have recently given another statement to a detective from Livingston.
118. I've also recently been in touch with the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board and submitted an application for compensation.

Records

119. I never knew how to go about getting my records, but I was told by DC Fiskin that my records had been lost anyway. I wanted a copy of my records because I thought there might be something about my behaviour and my own autism. My son [REDACTED] has autism as well and I wanted to get help for him.

Lessons to be Learned

120. There needs to be better communication. It needs to be mandatory for teachers to do courses in awareness of autism and all of the Mental Health Act. Mental health awareness needs to be highlighted a lot more because everybody is different.
121. There have to be changes to the justice system in Scotland. A sentence of fifteen years for ruining children's lives is not nearly enough. Children are scarred for life and going through a prosecution is like another punishment for something they have not done.

Other information/Hopes for the Inquiry

122. I don't know whether Uncle ^{KUE} did any more to me while I was lying in bed, I can't remember. I've maybe blocked it out. The fact that [REDACTED] came into my bed when I was moved back from the good wing and wet my bed makes me think he maybe did something to [REDACTED] as well.

123.



124. When I was fourteen my Aunt [REDACTED] told me that my uncle [REDACTED] had sexually interfered with my cousin. That started to make sense to me, because I couldn't understand before why he had told me to take my vest off.
125. I understood that Ovenstone was a home for children with naughty or challenging behaviour, although they never told me that at the time. The way I saw it was that the children weren't naughty, they were kids who had probably seen lots of bad things. They were kids that needed some help and not labelled and put into some school.

126. Every child that has autism must be diagnosed at the earliest possible age. It affects a child when they're diagnosed too late.
127. I want everyone to know what happened to children in care and I want it to be made sure that it never happens again. Every child must be listened to.
128. People don't understand the pain. These people have wrecked so many people's lives and many of them will never face justice. What we can do is learn from it and make sure it never happens again.
129. 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.....
KVA
Dated..... 18/10/19