

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

KPZ

Support person present: No

1. My name is KPZ. My date of birth is 1969. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I was born in Sunderland. My parents, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], were both bus drivers and moved back to Scotland after having run away to get married. We first moved to Kilmarnock and stayed there until I moved into care. I was in and out of hospital a lot as I was born with [REDACTED] disease, which affects the bone growth in the [REDACTED]. I was about five or six when the hospital diagnosed the problem. Both my parents are now deceased and I don't really have anyone that can fill in the blanks in my memory.
3. My memory of my upbringing was good. The only issue I was having was wearing steel callipers to keep my legs straight. Initially I used a wheelchair, then a year with callipers on one leg and six months on the other leg. When I was at Loanhead Primary School, Kilmarnock I was being bullied by some of the other pupils and when I took some revenge I was expelled from the school. I was still only in primary three, maybe primary four, when this happened.
4. For a short time I was sent to another local authority school, but I don't remember the name. There was a day when I was at a meeting with social workers and staff at the new school and I was left in a play room. In this room there was a box with sand and some toys. I was told to play there until they finished their meeting. While I played there another boy came into the room, tipped the sand box and scattered the toys and

left again. Needless to say that was when mum and the social workers came back to the room. No one believed it was not me. I was only in the school for a few weeks when it was decided it was not for me and I was moved on to Monken Hadley School for Boys.

Monken Hadley School for Boys, Newton Stewart

5. The day I was to be moved, my mum told me I was to go with the lady who arrived at the house. I did not want to go but mum gave me a pound and she told me I would be taken to the shops. When I got into the car there were two social workers and they transported me to Monken Hadley. I don't know their names and had no more involvement with them. When I looked back I could see mum was crying at the door. My dad was in Iraq, driving the long distance lorry. He was away for months at a time.
6. On the way to the school we picked up another boy, I can't remember his name, who was going to the same home. We stopped off at a garage before the school so we could get some sweets.

Routine at Monken Hadley School for Boys

First day

7. When I first arrived at the home I saw it was like a mansion at the front with a large tower to the rear. As you entered the building through the main entrance there was a snooker table at the front. There was a large hall to the side of the entrance and in the centre was a staircase leading upstairs. My bedroom was up the stairs to the left. In my room there was a set of stairs at the far end leading down to another room. That other room was later used as our classroom. The classroom led through another door to yet another room. This seemed to be the design of the whole building, where one room was always leading off to another. My room had six sets of bunk beds, maybe

as many as eight. It was all boys there, again I am not sure of any of the names of the other people there.

8. We were separated into age groups I think there were about ten of us in the junior section of the house, a bit more in the intermediate age group and some more in the senior group. I am not sure of the exact number. I was the youngest at the school, being about seven, and the oldest would have been about fifteen or sixteen. I can't remember what the ages were for each of the groups, but if I guessed, I would say that the juniors were all primary school age, intermediate twelve to thirteen, and the seniors were fourteen upwards.
9. When I arrived at the school, one of the female members of staff stripped off all my clothes. I did not want to take my clothes off in front of strangers but after she gave me a thump in the head with her knuckles, that made me strip. Her name was Mrs or Miss KXP. I remember being naked and I was trying to hide myself under the couch in the living room. She told me she was leaving me for a short time and that I was to put on the clothes that she had left.
10. Mrs KXP was in charge of our rooms. She was in her forties and had grey hair and wore glasses. She had a junior member of staff that helped her and stayed at the home as well. Her name was Miss Shark but she changed it when she married. I don't remember her married name. She was a lot younger than Mrs KXP.

Mornings and bedtime

11. It seemed it was always dark when we got up in the morning, so I presume it was really early. We would make our beds, get washed, dressed and then go down the stairs for breakfast. I think there were two bathrooms for our rooms, one we were allowed to use and the other was for staff. In our bathroom there was a toilet, a bath and one sink. In the mornings it was just a case of dampening your hair and washing your hands, just enough to show that you had washed.

Mealtimes/Food

12. For our breakfast there was bread and a pot of jam. The only problem was that I was the youngest and at the far end of the table. Nearly every day by the time the jar of jam reached me, it was empty. It was much the same with the bread. By the time it got to me, I was left with crumbs. The only thing I was left to eat was a small bowl of porridge. This happened quite often. I used to tell this story to mum when I got home and she would laugh at it. I was always starving when I stayed at the school.
13. If I wanted any sauce with evening meals I was told I would have to buy my own. I don't know how they expected a seven year old to be able to do that. There was never any issue if you did not eat food, because you were always so hungry you ate everything. Anybody that was slow at eating would find that the older boys would help clear their plate.
14. There was a system of sorts in place for any leftovers in the pots. Every second day the juniors would be allowed to empty the pots and in the days in between, the seniors and intermediates would do it. There was a dinner lady who cooked and served you the meals. You went up to the counter with your plate or bowl. That was how I was guaranteed some porridge in the mornings.

Washing/bathing

15. Bath night was once a week on a Sunday. There was always two of us at a time having the one bath. We were usually supervised by one of the female members of staff. Mrs KXP or Miss Shark would wash you. I am not sure if the bath water was changed when the next set of boys were due in the bath.

Clothing/uniform

16. I was given different sets of clothes to wear. We were issued two sets of clothes for during the day, one was a good set of clothes, like a uniform, and this was what we

were to wear for school and if going to church on Sundays. The other set was an old set of clothes and this was to be worn when we came home from school or if we were in the home during the day at weekends and night time. We were also given a set of pyjamas. The juniors wore shorts and the intermediate and seniors were issued with long trousers. All our clothes had tags with our names on them, it was the same for our shoes.

Leisure time

17. There was a pocket money system in place. You started at fifty pence, then thirty five and lower amounts. You were graded on your behaviour each week and if you were good you got the full fifty pence. If you misbehaved during the week you got less. If you were persistently getting into bother it was even less. This impacted on swimming time at the weekend or the cinema. If you misbehaved during the week you did not have enough pocket money to go to those activities. I think the only time I was given full pocket money was the week I was lying ill in bed.
18. When you got to the stage when there was no pocket money left, the only punishment in Mrs KXP eyes was a slap on the back of the head or she would use her knuckles on the top of your head.
19. There was no actual play area within the grounds for us play any football or the like. One time one of the boys got a rope from the builders next door. We put that over a branch on one of the trees and made a rope swing out of it. There was nothing else in the grounds for us to play on.
20. Just before I left there was a new male member of staff, I can't remember his name. I am not sure if he was in charge of the seniors or not. He built a small fort for us out of breeze block and wood. Some of the older boys did not like his fort and used the wood to make a tree house. I remember one time climbing up inside but when I got to the top I was really scared. This new teacher climbed up to help me down. He squeezed my shoulders to get me to loosen my grip before he could get me down again. The

other boys were standing below and trying to pull me down by my feet. I was more scared of the fall than what he was doing to me to get me to release my grip.

School

21. Miss Shark was the person who took us for lessons while I was at Monken Hadley. She only taught the pupils that were in my room. The standard of the education was terrible. I was always treated as being stupid. It was not until after I left there and someone took time to help me that I was diagnosed with dyslexia. The first place we used as a classroom was a hut in the grounds. Later, the room which was down the stairs from my bedroom was changed to our classroom. I only remember TV being a big part of my lessons in school. There was some papers which we used to draw on. I think that was all we did while we were in class.
22. If we misbehaved some of our pocket money was docked. If that did not work, we were made to stay behind or sent to bed early. In those days we did not have television in the room or anything else to entertain us. If you were sent to be bed early, it was a real bad punishment. I don't remember Miss Shark physically hitting us if we misbehaved.

Healthcare

23. I did have to go to the dentist while I was at Monken Hadley. It was near the school and only about five minutes' walk away. I was having a lot of my teeth taken out and was given gas to knock me out. I was never told the reason for having so many teeth being taken out and I found it very traumatising. The new male teacher had to carry me home because I had been knocked out. When I woke up I was covered in bruises on my arms and torso. I think it must have been from him having to carry me home. He told me afterwards that every so often he would be putting me on the ground for respite and then lifting me up again.
24. There was one time I saw the doctor. I had lots of spots on my body and to begin with they thought it may have been meningitis or scarlet fever. There were a couple of other

boys who had spots as well. The doctor came to see us at the home. After an examination he left us in the room but said he would be back that night. When he returned he had some toys for us. It was also strange because the staff brought us food to the room. The doctor must have said something about us being kept in the room all day without any stimulation and that we would be hungry. I haven't been able to get my records so I don't know his name.

Religious instruction

25. The religious instruction was that we would pray at the side of our bed before going to sleep. Mrs KXP would check we said the words correctly. We would all have to attend Sunday School. There was lots of times when we were at the church and other mothers would be saying to their kids that they had to behave or this was what could happen to them, pointing at us.

Work

26. We did have some chores to do. It would involve cleaning our room, the bathroom and sometimes we would polish the shoes. They split those chores among each of the boys in our room. One week I did the shoes, another week the toilet and another the bedroom. Mrs KXP would check the chores were done properly. If we did not do it right we would be given a clout over the head from her.

Birthdays and Christmas

27. I am not certain but I think I was sent home at Christmas, so there was no real celebration at the school. If we were at the Christmas service at the church there were some presents for us which were donated. I know I did have birthdays when I stayed there but I cannot remember any celebration.
28. I must have been in the home during Easter as we were all asked to make Easter cards to be sent to our parents.

Family contact

29. We were always having to write letters home. This was about once a week and we were helped by Mrs KXP and Miss Shark to write those letters. We never included in the letters any information about the staff hitting us. We just saw that as normal at that time. I did get postcards from my dad. He would send me a card from almost every country he was in. A lot of them were pictures of the hotel he was in and he would circle the room he stayed in.
30. My dad came home from one of his trips abroad and visited me at the school. During this visit he gave me a watch he bought from Turkey or somewhere like that. It was a blue faced watch. It was one of the smartest things I ever saw. As soon as I was back in the home the male teacher, whose name I don't remember, took it off me. He told me it was for safekeeping. A couple of weeks later in the school I heard some jingling on the floor. When I looked down I saw it was pieces of a watch. That teacher picked them up and put them all back together. I recognised it as my watch and asked him if I could have it back. He told me I would get it back when I left, but that never happened and I never saw it again. Everybody in the school knew it was my watch, as I was telling them how I got it. I told mum and dad when I went home, but it was not taken any further. It was difficult to prove anyone had stolen it and that I never lost it.
31. I remember another visit from dad and he was waiting in my room for me. As we were talking I told him one of the things I was getting into trouble for was not folding my clothes properly. He showed me how to stretch the clothes out using the seams and fold them. I don't remember my mum ever coming to visit me.
32. I know one of the times dad wanted to come to visit and the staff told him he couldn't see me. I don't know if it was because of something I was doing wrong that week. Whatever the reason, dad did not accept it and demanded to see me when he arrived.

33. I did get home for the summer holidays. I remember when I was home that I never wanted to go back to Monken Hadley, but I was told that I did not have any choice.

Personal possessions

34. The only personal item I ever had was a fire truck. I was allowed a small drawer in a unit in the hallway to store it. Others who had more items with them were given more space to store their things.

Running away

35. If we ran away from the home I would be sent to the Rector's office. I don't know his name. If we were sent there we knew it was to get the belt. Everybody who was to receive the belt would queue outside his door until it was their turn. It was not just for running away we got the belt, it could be for fighting or if someone stole anything. I would usually get less strokes as I was younger. It would usually amount to a couple on each hand. The belt was the usual school belt, not his trouser belt.
36. I am not sure how many times I tried to run away but one time there were four of us and we went to the swing park. There was always a motor bike parked there whenever we had gone previously, and we all wanted a shot on that. The plan was that one of the other three would take it and I was to sit on the handlebars. We never got the bike.
37. Any time I tried to get away it was always with other boys, never on my own. It was always during the day, never at night. I can't remember if the dorm was locked at night, which may have stopped us running away. I never got far away from the home and never tried to get home, it was too far away.
38. I did not see the Rector using anything else to punish us with. I am not sure if he kept some sort of record of punishments but there must have been something, because he

was able to read out at assembly who was having some of their pocket money docked. Assembly was held once a week, but I can't remember which day it was.

Bed-wetting

39. When I stayed at Monken Hadley I sometimes wet the bed. If Mrs KXP saw we wet the bed she would get really angry. It wasn't just me she would shout at, she would shout at everybody in the room. She would take her mood out on everyone in the room. She would do this by making extra checks to see whether beds had been made properly, stopping anyone playing outside or stopping anyone playing with any toys. Just generally being in a bad mood with everybody.
40. Sometimes the other boys would waken early and check if I had wet the bed. When they discovered the wet bed they would help me take the sheet off the bed and put it over the radiator, to try and dry it before she came in. They would help me get the sheet back on the bed and hope when she checked it, it was dry enough for her to miss it. This only lasted for a few days when I first arrived. She stopped me having anything to drink before I went to bed to try and stop it.

Abuse at Monken Hadley School for Boys

41. There was a new boy who came to stay in our room. I think he may have been deaf from the way he spoke. He was about eleven years old but he never really fitted in with us. He was scared when the lights went out at night and he would make some strange noises. Mrs KXP would come into the room and she would shout at us all, unaware who was making the noise. Because she was shouting at us all, we would pick on him. We would go over to him and nip him. We knew that if we kept doing this he would keep screaming. We continued with the nipping of his skin and Mrs KXP kept coming through to see what was causing the commotion.

42. Mrs KXP and some other male members of staff, I don't know their names, opened the room, which could be accessed from the set of stairs in our room and was later used as our classroom, and moved a bed in there and transferred the boy there. They locked the door to the room and left it in the dark. The screaming then went on and on throughout the night. It was getting later into the morning and other staff went to the room. We could hear from the noises that he was being hit by the staff. We could only hear, so I am not sure if they were using their hands to hit him or if anything else was used. He was fighting with everyone trying to get out of the room. Because of his speech problem we could not make out what was being said by him.
43. The staff did not come back through our room. They must have left by the other door in the room. I am not sure what happened to the boy because when we went to the school there was no sign of him and we never saw him again in the home. I still regret what we did as boys and if I ever saw this boy again I would like to make my apologies to him. Maybe by me coming forward to the Inquiry this may corroborate some of his evidence. We were never spoken to by any of the staff about what happened that night. I felt guilty about what we did and I hope that if a deaf boy comes forward, what I have said will help.
44. I remember one time I was on the swings in the park and some of the other boys were pushing me higher and higher. I was getting more scared as I went higher and when I was coming down near the ground, I put my feet down to drag the speed down. That was how I scraped the shoes I was wearing. Mrs KXP saw the state of the shoes and hit me by punching me on the head with her knuckles.
45. Later in my time at the home, there were times when the senior boys would be in the toilet areas and would masturbate there. On some occasions the younger boys were made to watch and on some occasions some were made to touch the older boys' penis. I don't know any of the names of those involved. I was told that if anyone complained the senior boy would give you a battering about the head and body, all to make sure you kept quiet. It didn't happen to me.

46. Some of the other boys warned us not to use that toilet because of what was happening. There was one time I wanted some toilet paper. It was because the toilet paper at that time was the old style which was very hard and similar to tracing paper. When I went to the toilet there was one boy who would stand guard at the door to make sure no one was disturbed. I was made to join in and touch an older boy's penis. I knew it was bad but I was too scared to say anything. I don't know the names of any of the boys involved.
47. I can't remember what the reasons were but there was a time when I was hit by one of the older boys. I don't remember his name. He pushed me really hard and I hit the side of my face on one of the metal vents attached to the outside of the building. I got a big cut which needed stitches and left me with a scar. I can't remember if I was treated at the home or at the hospital. The staff just thought I fell but no one asked anymore about it. Some of the older boys took revenge on him for hitting a young boy.

Leaving Monken Hadley

48. There was no notice about me leaving, but someone, and it may have been my dad, told me that I was getting out of Monken Hadley, but after nearly two years there it was because of good behaviour. I remember the journey home was with the same taxi driver who dropped me off there. There was no teacher or social worker, just the taxi driver. He gave me some pens and a colouring book for the journey.
49. When I arrived home I remember the dog bit me on the face because he did not recognise me. The next morning, it was really early, and my mum was up to go to the bathroom. She screamed out as she passed my room, as I was sitting on the bed with the bed all made up. I told her that was what we had to do at the home.
50. When I was at home I was sent to Onthank Primary School. This was the same school that was in the television programme, The Scheme. Our school was really run down, but directly across the road was a modern Catholic School. I can't remember the name of the school. My mum did try to get me enrolled in the modern school but when the

Catholic Headmaster found out that I was never confirmed or Catholic, I was asked to leave. When we moved area I was transferred to another primary school in Glasgow, I think it was Bellahouston. That was where I was diagnosed with dyslexia.

Life after being in care

51. In my adult life I worked for a transport company and seafood company. I also did apprenticeships as a bricklayer and as a mechanic. In 1988 I got settled and trained as a chef. I started at the [REDACTED] and was later made head chef. I worked throughout England and also on the oil rigs. I have carried out many different jobs in my life until the illness took effect and stopped me from working.
52. I am now married and have six children. None of my immediate family are left as they have all passed away.

Impact

53. I always felt that my education and my dyslexia held me back from getting any better jobs. I never got the start that I believe would have helped me progress to a better or different life.

Reporting of Abuse

54. I never reported any of the abuse to any authority as I never thought that anyone would believe what happened to me.

Records


55. I have tried to get some of my school records but with all the changes in councils they say they are either lost or have been destroyed. I have also tried to get some of my medical records to see if the early x-rays were there. I was told that they too were probably destroyed.

Lessons to be Learned

56. I think there have already been changes made since I was in care. There has been the introduction of Childline, by Esther Rantzen. There is also the modern use of CCTV cameras which must be helping stop some of the abuse.

Other information

57. One of the main reasons I came forward to the Inquiry was to get off my chest what happened to the deaf boy who stayed with us.
58. I think the Rector who was in charge of Monken Hadley was also in charge of another home in England. I believe he went on to be part of a Commons Select Committee.
59. 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..  KPZ

Dated.. 19/09/2019