

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

KZF

Support person present: Yes

1. My full name is KZF. My date of birth is 1962. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I was born in Dundonald, out of wedlock. I was born in the house and came out the wrong way. I was rushed to hospital and there was no oxygen going to my brain. I think this affected me badly in my younger years and made me a bit slow.
3. My mother, had a hard time with my biological dad, and didn't stay with him. I never knew my biological dad.
4. My mother already had three sons and two daughters by her husband, before she had me. Her other kids had the surname, so she gave me the same name, even though wasn't my father. My older brothers resented me for having their father's name.
5. The oldest of my half siblings was my sister, who was almost twenty years older than me, then it was my brother, who was more than ten years older than me, then, and me.
6. My mum then had a relationship with a man called after having me.

7. We moved from Dundonald to Ballingry. I started St Kenneth's Roman Catholic Primary School in Ballingry.
8. I had no sense of danger as a child. I did silly things like going on a dyke on a pedal bike, and falling off, then being rushed to hospital. I messed around in class as well.
9. I attended a welfare centre in Lumphinnans when I was about four years old. I went there so they could check my mental state and see how I was performing at school. I think I went about four or five times. I met a woman called Mrs Bain there, who was my social worker.
10. I was put out of the primary school in Ballingry after primary two because of my behaviour. I was then put into Benarty Primary School, which was a Protestant school. The kids there used to bully me and throw stones at me because they didn't think I should be there because I wasn't Protestant.
11. I was then moved again and put in a classroom at Ballingry Junior High School where I would just sit at a desk. I was only there for about three or four days.
12. I remember going home after school when I was six or seven years old, and my mother telling me that somebody was coming to see me and I might be going away for a while.
13. A lady came to see me but I don't remember her name. There was a van waiting in the street and my mum had a bag made up for me, ready for me to leave. I didn't know where I was going or for how long.
14. I followed the lady out and got in the van with her. In the van, the woman told me I was going to a hospital to make me better. She must have been a social worker.
15. The driver drove and drove for ages and took me to Stratheden Hospital.

Playfield Children's Unit, Stratheden Hospital, Cupar, Fife

16. I was six or seven years old when I went to Stratheden. It was a massive, old building within the grounds of the hospital. It was really sunny when I arrived.
17. The lady who took me there, introduced me to the staff and showed me around. I was shown my bed and I put my stuff on the bed. The woman spoke to the staff and then left.
18. The staff there were **KZH**, who was sort of in charge of the unit, as well as **KZI**, **KZI**, **KZG**, **KZK**, and **KZJ**. There was also a matron who came to the unit for about an hour a day. I don't remember her name.
19. There was also night staff, and their names were Ian Fleming and Forbie Christie.
20. I think I was told by **KZH** and other staff members that I would be there for six months to a year. I ended up staying there for four years.
21. There were between twenty and thirty boys and girls in there. There were children up to the age of about ten or eleven. After that, they went to the adolescent unit which was across from the children's unit.
22. The names of the children that I remember are **[REDACTED]**, **[REDACTED]** and **[REDACTED]**, who were all about two or three years older than me. The youngest child was **[REDACTED]** who was only about three years old.
23. There was a big dormitory with a lot of beds and all the kids slept in the same dormitory. When you came out of the dormitory, there was a corridor, with a duty room on the right hand side, then toilets and a bathroom further down. Then there was the dining room and an area to keep shoes. At the end of the corridor there was a side door that took you outside.

24. There was a kitchen just off the dining room, and a wee pantry thing where you could get sweets.
25. On the other side of the dormitory, there was just a corridor with stairs at the end, which went up to two different levels. There was the nursery at the top, and the nurses, doctors and psychiatrists were on the middle level.
26. The nursery was the same size as the dormitory, it was massive. It was for all the children in the unit. It had dressing up things, tea sets, plastic hockey sticks, bean bags, and a sandpit. There was also a television room on the other side of the nursery.
27. There was a play area outside with monkey bars, swings, and a chute. There was a shrubbery with a sandpit at the bottom of it. There was a piggery just beyond it, and if you went up the way, there was the main hospital building.

Routine at Playfield Children's Unit

28. The staff came in the morning and woke us up. They would put the lights on and give us a shake to get us up. This could be KZH, KZG or Paddy, or just any staff who were on.
29. We would get up, go to the toilet then go and get washed and clean our teeth. The toilets and sinks were all on the same floor as the dormitory. There was a big room with a lot of sinks and three baths in it to get washed and clean our teeth.
30. Then we went to the dining room to get our breakfast. After breakfast, we all went up to the nurse. We were supervised by about eight or nine staff members during the week.
31. At lunch time, we went back down to the dining room. We got a sweetie from the pantry after lunch. We went in one at a time and got to pick a sweetie we wanted from the

selection, and a member of staff would give it to us. We each had a box with our name on it to keep our sweeties in it.

32. We then went outside in the play area after lunch. We did that most days, unless the weather was really bad, then we just went back to the nurse in the afternoon.
33. There were big grounds around Playfield. The children's unit looked on to a football pitch and countryside. We weren't closed in but we were only supposed to play in the play area. Staff would congregate on a big bench outside but weren't really supervising. I don't remember much staff outside.
34. There was a terrible accident one time when a girl was on a swing. The chain snapped and her ankle hit a slab and her bone came out. There was blood everywhere. I had been in the sandpit and I ran away when I saw it happen. I never saw the girl again so I don't know what happened to her. I don't think the staff could have stopped that happening even if they had been there. It was an accident.
35. We had our tea in the dining room, and got another sweetie after tea.
36. We watched some television in the evening. It was a massive room with two televisions in it. The staff took a vote from the kids to decide what to watch, and stayed with us while we watched. The youngest kids would be in bed by this time.
37. Bedtime was about 8 pm for me and the other kids aged seven and older. We had to wash our face and clean our teeth before bed. We just did that ourselves, and got ready for bed.
38. The staff didn't stay overnight. There would be two duty nurses who would watch us over bedtime and stayed overnight. I don't remember their names.
39. On a Saturday, we had more of the same but we had a bit more freedom. We didn't have to go to the nurse in the morning. We could play in the football bit or go to the shrubbery and wander about.

40. There was less staff on at the weekends, so we used to go right up to the main road, cross it and go to the swing park without the staff knowing.
41. We went for walks on a Sunday. They used to walk us for miles. The staff would take us even if it was raining and just get us to wear coats. There were some kids in wheelchairs who would go, and we would push them.
42. Some kids with illnesses couldn't go. Wee [REDACTED] had polio and he wasn't able to go for walks.
43. We didn't go to church or anything. It wasn't a religious place.
44. We didn't have any chores to do in that place. They had people to do all the cleaning and changing beds and things.

Mealtimes / Food

45. There were four really big tables. We just sat wherever we wanted. Old Peggy, the cook, brought our breakfast out to us. We got toast, cereals and bit of fruit, which was ok.
46. The lunch and dinner came from the ward and it was ok. We would pile our plates up after meal times and Peggy would clear them away.
47. We got a cup of tea and a biscuit before we went to bed. We would go in two by two to get it.
48. We got fed alright in there.

Washing / bathing

49. Half the children in the unit got bathed one day, and the other half on the next day. This meant, every child got bathed every second day.
50. There were three baths in the bathroom and there would be a child in each bath.
51. Initially, when I first went in, a member of staff would wash my hair and wash me down in the bath. Then I would be allowed to lie in the bath for a while until I was called out.
52. There would be two members of staff or two duty nurses in the bathroom to make sure you didn't mess around.
53. We didn't each get fresh bath water, so we just went into the baths one after another.
54. After a while, when I knew what I was doing, I would wash my own hair and body, but the staff would still be in the room.

Clothing / uniform

55. I had a box at the bottom of my bed, like a wee trunk, and a cupboard by my bed to keep my things in.
56. I took my own clothes in with me. When I grew out of them, the hospital gave me clothes. Sometimes there were new clothes that had been bought for me, and sometimes they were hand me downs.
57. There were markers and name tags put on the clothes, so when they came back from getting washed, you'd get your own clothes back.

School

58. There was no school, really. A teacher called Mrs Pratt came in occasionally. I didn't have any proper schooling for the four years I was there.

Trips / Holidays

59. We used to go to Newbury swimming baths and I learned to swim there. We would go during the week.
60. All the kids went but on different days. Half the kids would go one day in the mini bus, and the rest another day.
61. I don't remember any other trips or going on holiday. I stayed at the unit over the holiday periods when other kids went home to their families.

Birthdays and Christmas

62. I got a birthday cake on my birthday and everybody would sing happy birthday to me. I got presents and I was allowed to keep them in my trunk at the end of the bed. The same things happened for other kids on their birthdays. They did make a fuss of you.
63. Christmas was difficult for me. Everyone else went home to their families but because I didn't have much of a family, I was the only child that stayed over Christmas. Two or three of the staff members looked after me.
64. I got a Christmas present and Christmas dinner which was brought down from the main building.
65. One Christmas, I kept getting asked questions about Hibs football team. I found it weird because it was Celtic that I liked, but I was able to answer because I was interested in football.

66. Then the doorbell rang on Christmas day and the staff told me to answer the door. We weren't usually allowed to answer the door but they said it was a special occasion, so I opened the door. There was a man standing there and he asked if I was KZF. I said that I was, and he said that he was Alex Edwards and that he played for Hibernian Football Club. He had a bag in his hand which had a full man size Hibernian strip for me. He stayed and talked to me for a while about how he got signed up.
67. When it was time for him to go, I walked him to the door and he gave me three pound notes and told me to buy my something nice. He patted me on the head and told me that they were playing Rangers at Ibrox the next day, but if he scored then he would give me a thumbs up.
68. I watched the match on boxing day, and Rangers won three to one. Alex scored the goal for Hibs, and after he celebrated with the players, he gave a big smile and thumbs up, which I knew was for me.
69. That was a nice memory, but the staff took the money from me and the football strip. They said I'd get extra sweets. I could have spent the money at the hospital café and shop if they'd let me keep it.

Visits and family contact

70. Visits from family usually took place on a Saturday and the matron would be there to organise them.
71. The kids would be told to sit on their beds and the visitors would arrive and take them away. The rest of the kids would get a visit every weekend, but I was always just left sitting on my bed because I hardly got any visits. I had to sit and watch the other kids all going away.
72. On two occasions, other kids' dads asked the matron about me because I was alone and then took me out with their own child. The first dad took me to Cupar with his son, and we went to the park and he bought me a toy rifle.

73. The second time, which was about a year later, the father said to the matron that it was a shame that I was sitting on the bed on my own. He then took me away with him and his son, and we went to Leven.
74. My mum and [REDACTED] visited me on two occasions and then my mum visited separately with my sister twice, so I had about four family visits in four years.
75. I had my visits in the duty room, and then we went outside for a walk. I could spend time with them alone.
76. I enjoyed the visits with my mum, but I didn't like [REDACTED] coming.
77. My social worker, Mrs Bain, who I had met at the welfare centre when I was four, came to visit me about three or four times. I would meet with her on my own. She would sometimes take me out to the café across the road from Playfield, within the hospital grounds.
78. I told Mrs Bain what was happening to me in the place, and I think she spoke to staff. She would say to me that she had spoken to them anyway. I don't know if she did.
79. Mrs Bain was my social worker until I was a teenager.

Healthcare

80. I had my height and weight checked but not that often.
81. I would go and see the doctors. I think I was being assessed. They would give me blocks to put into shapes. I think it was to do with testing my IQ. It never happened that often. It says in my records that I had a low IQ.
82. Dr Lindsey was my psychiatrist and I saw him about twice a week. He worked in the adolescent unit but would sometimes come to my unit and I would see him in one of

the rooms upstairs. Most times I would go to the adolescent unit to see him. I would climb in through his window because it was a shortcut, which he let me do. He was a nice doctor and would give me sweeties.

83. Dr Lindsey would ask me to behave. He would say that there was a good person in me and that I would be a good man. He would tell me that he was going to do his best to get me out of that place.
84. You would go to the main hospital if you were ill. I had a few teeth taken out, and also had the measles or the mumps.
85. Once a week, the staff would give all the kids some sort of substance that looked a bit like toffee, but didn't taste like it. It was horrible and sticky, and would take long time to swallow. I don't know what that was for.
86. I think I was also being drugged in the last year that I was there. The reason I think this is because I wasn't feeling like myself. I felt lethargic and slow all the time, so I couldn't do anything physical like play football or go on my bike. I wonder if I was being drugged with medication in my food or drink.

Bed Wetting

87. I was a bed wetter. I had a rubber sheet put on my bed. I was also woken up through the night to go to the toilet so that I wouldn't wet the bed.
88. Some of the other children also wet the bed. We just had our sheets taken off the bed and washed. I wasn't humiliated for it.

Discipline

89. If staff thought you were being bad, they would send you to the dormitory. Other times, they would not allow you to have any sweets as a punishment, or not be allowed out to play.

Abuse at Playfield Children's Unit

90. KZG's boyfriend, [REDACTED], had a motorbike and he would come to the hospital to visit KZG. I used to sit on it and pretend I was riding it. One day, I jumped off, knocking the bike over and smashed a bit of it.
91. The next day, I jumped on it again. [REDACTED] and KZG walked towards me, and I saw KZG saying something to him, before [REDACTED] shouted at me "get off my fucking bike and dinnae go on it again or I'll fit your arse." I ran away.
92. Later on that day, I was winding up KZG about how [REDACTED] had spoken to me and that I was going to tell matron. Then, out of the blue, KZG came running towards me with a wooden claw hammer in her hand and threw it right at me. I just froze and it hit me on the head. I bolted. I was seven or eight years old at the time.
93. I ended up down at a farm, and I was about to go into a barn when a woman said I couldn't go in there. I burst out crying so she invited me into her house and gave me a glass of juice. She asked if I was one of the boys from the hospital, and I said I was. I told her what had happened and she said it was terrible, but I had to go back and tell one of the head staff what had happened.
94. The woman drove me back to the children's unit and I jumped over the wall and went in. When I got inside, a wee girl said that KZG was looking for me. When I saw KZG, she was all apologetic and said she was sorry and didn't mean it. I said it was ok.
95. None of the staff had noticed that I had ran away so I didn't get in trouble for that.
96. Later that night, KZG went out with [REDACTED] on the motorbike and they had an accident. [REDACTED] was killed instantly and KZG was propelled off the motorbike and seriously injured.

97. The next day, the staff were talking about it and I said that's what she got for chucking a hammer at me. They went berserk and I ran away. One of the staff members chased me and caught up with me. He told me I shouldn't be saying things like that because she was seriously injured and her boyfriend was dead. I said that she shouldn't have thrown a hammer at me then. He didn't believe me and I said to ask the other children if he didn't believe me.
98. Other kids told me that they'd been asked the next day if [KZG] had thrown a hammer at me, and they had said that she had. I can't remember the names of the other kids. None of the staff ever came back to talk to me about it.
99. [KZG] never came back to the children's unit after the accident, which I was happy about.
100. One time, [KZH] was supervising us as we were getting our tea and biscuits before bed. I decided to run up the stairs and out of the unit. I think he must have known I was going to do it because when I ran up the stairs, he managed to catch me quickly, and he was an old man. He was in his fifties or sixties I think.
101. [KZH] was tall and had a long arm. He stopped me by reaching out and grabbing me by my testicles when I was on the stairs. He forcefully ripped me back down the stairs. I managed to put my hands out before I fell, which was lucky because they were stone stairs.
102. I lay in a heap on the ground when it happened. I had to be carried to my bed. I was in agony for days. I think I was about ten years old at the time.
103. I ended up having to get an operation on my testicles two years later because he'd twisted them and pushed them down.
104. Sometimes, if I played up, two staff members would drag me to my bed, fling me onto it and pin me down. One would be on each side of me and they'd pull the covers right up to my throat so I felt like I was being choked. Then a third person would come with

a syringe and squirt something in my mouth that put me straight to sleep. It must have been a drug.

105. It happened to me on about four occasions. The people I remember doing it to me were [KZH], [KZI], [KZJ], [KZK] and a guy called [KZM].
106. I didn't see it happen to anybody else. It happened to me if they thought I was playing up by fighting another kid, or if they thought I was being disruptive. Most kids were only there for about six months and I had been there longer so I think they thought I should be setting an example. I think they had a dislike for me and I had a dislike for them.
107. [KZI] was verbally very cruel to me. One day, we were watching Top of the Pops on telly. The song "Seasons of the Sun" by Terry Jacks came on, and [KZI] asked me if I knew what the song was about. I said I didn't, and he said "it's about fucking dying you stupid cunt."
108. Another time, I was out on my bike and the chain came off. I saw [KZI] come towards me and I wanted to quickly get the chain on and get away because I hated him. He came up to me and said, "see when you're old enough to leave here, you're going to that adolescent unit, and see when you're old enough to leave there, see that big building up there, that's where you'll be and you'll be walking like them" and he gestured to a line of old men who were walking past, from the big hospital building.
109. I put my chain on my bike and got away as fast as I could. I used to avoid [KZI] like the plague. He was there the whole time I was there.

Theft of personal possessions

110. I used to do drawings of football pitches and they were good. I would draw wee circles for the faces of people, and draw the banners and scarves. I supported Celtic.

111. There was a guy called Paddy Healey who worked there and he really liked Celtic football team, and he said he'd write to the team to get me a football strip. He asked me to do a drawing of the football pitch and he put it in the letter to the team.
112. Five or six weeks later, I got a parcel full of Celtic memorabilia. It had a silk autograph book in it, which said Celtic in gold writing on it. It had all the Lisbon Lions autographs in it, and then also Kenny Dalglish, Danny McGrain, Roy Aitken and Sean Connery's too. There was also a poster signed by the Lisbon Lions, a silk scarf, pen, A letter from Jock and a tammy hat that his wife had knitted.
113. There was a member of domestic staff called [KZN], who was from Dublin, who also supported Celtic. She said I was a lucky boy for getting all that and that I would need to see that it didn't go missing. I said I'd look after it, and I put it in my locker.
114. A week or so later, she offered me a fiver and stamp books for it. I said no because I wanted to keep it. Three or four weeks later, she came back and offered me the same again, for it. I still said no.
115. A couple of weeks later, the poster, the autograph book and personal letter were gone from my locker. I told a member of staff, who asked all the kids if they'd taken it. They all said they hadn't touched it.
116. I told the staff that [KZN] had offered me money and stamp books for it. I was told that [KZN] had left work, without a forwarding address and maybe moved back to Dublin. I think she must have stolen my things and planned it because she was leaving.
117. They also took the money and Hibernian strip that Alex Edwards had given me when he visited me at Christmas.
118. They weren't happy abusing me just verbally and physically, they had to steal from me as well. I think it was because I didn't have any contact with my family so they knew I was an easy target.

Leaving Playfield Children's Unit

119. Dr Lindsey didn't want me to go to the adolescent unit at Playfields. He made it very clear that he didn't even want me to be in the children's unit. I think he felt that I had been in there too long and that a lot of the aggro with the staff wasn't just down to me.
120. I think Dr Lindsey knew that the staff were fed up with me. He said he was going to send me to a good school, called Ovenstone, where teachers came to teach five days a week. I was quite looking forward to that because I hadn't had that.
121. I don't remember leaving the unit or what my last day was like, but Mrs Bain took me to the new place.

Reporting of abuse at Playfield Children's Unit

122. I told the woman at the farm about **KZG** throwing the claw hammer at me. She just told me to tell senior staff and dropped me back off at the unit.
123. I also told a staff member the next day. I can't remember who it was, but he asked the other kids about it the next day, and they confirmed it. Nobody came back to speak to me about it again. **KZG** didn't come back to work, but I think that was because of her accident.
124. I told Mrs Bain about the bad stuff happening to me, and she told me she'd spoken to staff about it. I have got my records as an adult, but there aren't any notes in it about the bad things I told her about when I was in there.

Ovenstone Residential School, Pittenweem

125. I was about ten years old when I went to Ovenstone. Mrs Bain, my social worker took me in a car.
126. We drove up a driveway to a large, white building. It was more modern than Playfield. We went inside with my suitcase, and met the matron, who was in charge. I don't remember her name.
127. When Mrs Bain left, a nurse came and showed me where my bed was. It was in a big dormitory.
128. On the ground floor of the building, there was a TV room, dining room, and main duty room where the staff sat. The dormitory was up a few steps up and there was a verandah.
129. It was called a residential school but it had nurses and medical staff there. I don't really know what the place was.
130. It was called a school and was for primary school aged boys. There were about eighteen boys in there, from about four or five years old up to eleven years old.
131. The only staff names I remember there were Mr KZO, Mr Christie, Nurses Kate, KLK and Anne, and Mr King, who was the gardener. They were there all the time.

Routine at Ovenstone

132. Matron would ring the bell in the morning to get everyone up. She stayed in the building and was there all the time.
133. Then you would get up, go to the bathroom to get washed, brush your teeth and get your clothes on. We just wore our own clothes, and got them back after they were washed. I never got any new clothes while I was in there. I got hand me downs if I needed something.

134. We made our beds then went for breakfast in the dining room. We then had chores to do.
135. We did chores until the bell rang, then we went to school, which was in a separate building. Then back to the main building for lunch, then back to school in the afternoon.
136. After school, we had our tea, and were allowed to play for two or three hours. There was a big, grassy area with a football pitch where we could play. There were also the remains of a castle type thing that we played in, or we went for walks to the reservoir, which was about three miles away. Playing outdoors was enjoyable.
137. We would get some supper after playing, then got to watch a bit of telly.
138. Three nurses would be on duty at night.
139. I would stay at the school every weekend, while the other boys went home every fortnight. That was because my mum didn't want me home. The matron would be around at weekends unless she was out. There were other staff members around too.
140. We went to church every Sunday, which was down the road. We wore kilts and walked there. I don't remember the name of it but it was a Protestant church. We had to go as it was just the done thing.

Mealtimes

141. We had all of our meals in the dining room. The staff sat with us at meal times.
142. We had to eat everything that was given to us. We didn't have a choice. If you tried to sneak anything away in your pocket, you would get caught because there were eyes everywhere, and you were made to sit and eat it.

143. If anybody didn't want their food, the staff would physically force them to eat it. This happened to me and I saw it happen to other kids. Mr ^{KZO} liked doing that.
144. If anybody was sick, they'd be excused at that point. I was never sick but I saw other kids being sick.
145. One time, I snuck liver in my pocket and got caught. I was made to sit back down by Mr ^{KZO} and eat it. You just did what you were told.

Schooling

146. The school was in a separate building in the same grounds. It was like a proper primary school, but just for the boys in Ovenstone. We didn't wear uniforms or anything.
147. All the classes were in one, big open plan room. There weren't different class rooms. I went into primary six when I was there.
148. There would be about four or five professional teachers, who came from outside.
149. They would each take their class or group to a different area of the room to teach. I was with the older boys at one end of the room. I don't remember my teacher's name.
150. The school was alright, but I struggled because I hadn't been to school or had any schooling for four years. I don't know if the teacher knew this, because she just expected me to do the work. If I couldn't do it, I would just be made to colour in or something.
151. I struggled at school because my I.Q. was low. This is something I've read in my records as an adult.

Chores

152. We had chores to do like sweep the verandah, clean the metal bits along the doors, clean the walls and toilets. We did this in the mornings before school.
153. I also had to do chores at the weekends, even when I was there on my own.

Bath times

154. There were two baths in the bathroom, and they were used at the same time. They were in separate cubicles so there was some privacy. Most of the boys there were older so we were able to take a bath ourselves.
155. There was a set bath night, and so many boys would go one night, and so many on another night.
156. There would be a member of staff lurking about but they wouldn't be watching you.

Bed wetting

157. I was still wetting the bed, so the nurses who were on duty at night would get me up to pee during the night so they could catch it before I wet the bed.
158. They were a bit strict about the bed wetting in there. The nurses would verbally embarrass me by telling me I was too old to be doing that. Other boys wet the bed too and they got the same treatment.
159. The nurses would strip the bed and change it when someone wet the bed.

Healthcare

160. I wasn't seeing a psychiatrist when I was in Ovenstone. I don't remember seeing a doctor or a dentist while I was in there.

161. Nurse Kate, **KLK** or Anne would give me medication for peeing the bed. I don't remember what it was. It was like a sweet orange juice thing. It had a braw smell.
162. Nurses Kate and **KLK** would ask how you were getting on and were nice ladies. I don't know if they were assessing me in any medical way. They didn't have much to do with the routine so I don't really know what they did.

Trips and holidays

163. I didn't go on any trips in the nine months I was there, or on any holiday.
164. I was the only kid there over the holidays because other boys went home to their families. I was made to do chores every day of the holidays when I was there by myself.

Visits and family contact

165. Mrs Bain came a couple of times in the nine months that I was there. I was able to talk to her alone, but I didn't feel I could talk about the sexual abuse that was going on.
166. I didn't tell her about the physical abuse from Mr **KZO** or the bullying from other boys. It was just one of those things; you just accepted it.
167. My mother came to visit me once and took me into Anstruther.

Abuse at Ovenstone

We sat on wee boxes that had cushions on them when we were watching telly in the evenings. They were against the wall. We had to sit really quietly. If we made any noise, Mr **KZO** would get angry, and take pleasure in hitting you with a slipper or a

belt on your bare bum. He did that to me and I saw him do it to other boys as well. I think I'd be bruised but never saw a doctor.

168. He would also use the belt if he caught you swearing or caught you fighting with another boy. He just carried the belt around with him, which was like a school belt.
169. There was a lot of fighting and violence between the boys. There was a lot of bullying going on and that happened to me. I don't remember the names of any of the boys who done it. I don't think the staff would have known it was going on. It was done out of the way.

Sexual abuse

170. My abuser was called Mr Christie. I'm sure he was employed by the hospital because he wore a white jacket.
171. All the children went home every weekend. I was left there alone at weekends, summer holidays, Christmas time and every other holiday. The only staff that would be there at the weekends would be the matron every weekend, and Mr Christie every other weekend. The nurses would sometimes be there too.
172. There were times when the matron and the nurses wouldn't be there, and it would just be me and Mr Christie, and he took advantage of that.
173. I was allowed to go to the staff sitting room when I was there by myself, where they had a fire and a colour TV. Mr Christie would be alone there, and he asked me to sit on his knee. I didn't want to and sat on the furthest away seat from him and he asked me to sit on his knee again. I kept saying no but he told me to, so I reluctantly went and sat on his knee, then he started sexually abusing me.
174. Christie would even come to get me on the weekends he didn't work, and take me to his home in Cellardyke, overnight. He must have got permission from Matron to do

that. He would pick me up on a Friday and I'd stay the night at his house and he'd abuse me there. That happened on four occasions.

175. He would make me go to bed with nothing on and he'd come to bed naked as well. He would get an erection and rub it up and down my back, and on my backside. Then he would ejaculate all over me. Then he'd turn around and fall asleep.
176. He tried to penetrate me once, but I moved away and let out a huge scream. Then the other times I went, I was always scared that he was going to try and do it again.
177. One day when I was at the school on the weekend and Christie was on duty, Nurse Kate kept telling him all day that they were all going out that night and to remember to lock the doors.
178. At night, the nurses all went out and left me and Christie in the school. He started to abuse me in the staff sitting room.
179. I remember Nurse Kate coming into the room with tea, juice, biscuits and crisps. I remember her kicking the door open and she caught him abusing me. She shouted at him, and called him a dirty paedophile bastard. She told me to get out the room and go downstairs to Nurse Anne.
180. I went down to Nurse Anne, and she was standing with a policeman, who was Nurse Kate's boyfriend. Anne told me to go for a ride with him in his police car, which I did. We put the light on and he drove me around Anstruther. It was good being in the police car.
181. When I got back, Christie was away and I slept in Nurse Kate's room, at the bottom of her bed.
182. I found out later, that they had parked the car in a layby up the road and walked back to the school, and come in through the back door. They must have had their suspicions about him.

183. I gave a statement to the police shortly after. They came to Ovenstone to take it.

Leaving Ovenstone

184. Christie was caught abusing me on the Saturday, and on the Tuesday of the following week, my social worker, Mrs Bain, turned up. My things were put into her car and I was taken away, back to Playfield. Mrs Bain never spoke to me about it.

185. I was at Ovenstone for about nine months before I left.

Playfield Children's Unit, Stratheden Hospital

186. I was about eleven years old when I went back to Playfield.

187. When I got back, **KZI**, **KZH** and **KZS** said things to me about being back in there. They said that I couldn't last anywhere, and asked me what I'd said and done to end up back there. They asked why I wanted to be back in there, and whether it was just to give them more bother and put them through it.

188. They were blaming me for leaving Ovenstone. They must have known about the abuse there and why I'd left.

189. I was still seeing Dr Lindsey when I got back to Playfield and I told him about the abuse in Ovenstone.

Court case against Mr Christie

190. About a year after I'd been in Playfield, the police came back to speak to me about the sexual abuse in Ovenstone because Christie had denied it. I spoke to the police in Dr Lindsey's office and gave them another statement. It was so they could compare it

to my first statement and see that I hadn't changed my story. I hadn't and they were the same.

191. They court case against Christie was in 1974, I think. I had to go to court and give evidence against him. The corridor at court was lined with other boys, who went in to give evidence. I didn't hear them give evidence but I think they were other boys he had abused. Christie was fined £75 and banned from working with children.

Leaving Playfield Children's Unit

192. The staff said they'd got a phone call from Dr Lindsey, who wanted to see me.
193. I went back into his office the usual way, through the window. He said that he was making enquiries and he was going to get me out of there. He told me to behave myself, ignore the staff and keep out of trouble by going out on my bike, playing football and going for walks.
194. Three weeks later, true to his word, Dr Lindsey told me that Mr LUT SNR Linwood Hall, was coming to see me. He phoned me again the day before the visit and told me to wear my best clothes for the visit and to come to his office through the main door, not the window.
195. I went to Dr Lindsey's office the next day and he told me to make a good impression and be on my best behaviour because Mr LUT was an ex-army man. When he arrived at Dr Lindsey's office, he shook my hand and asked if I wanted to go to Cupar for my dinner, and I said yes.
196. He took me out in his Range Rover for food. I had pie, beans and chips, then ice cream and jelly. He told me I'd made a good impression and that he'd like me to come to school, but it wouldn't happen overnight. I said that was good.

197. We went back to see Dr Lindsey and I waited outside until Mr LUT left and we waved bye to each other. I went to see Dr Lindsey and I asked when I would be going, and he said in a couple of weeks. He said to keep my nose clean until then and I'd never have to come back.
198. Dr Lindsey was looking out for me and was a big influence on my life. He gave me an escape route out of Playfield because staying there would have destroyed me. There were obstacles once I left there, and bad things that happened in other places, but Dr Lindsey couldn't have known that would happen.
199. About three weeks later, a social worker called Mrs Kidd came to take me to Linwood. That was the first time I had met her after she took over from Mrs Bain.
200. Mrs Kidd took me into Leven and shopping for clothes. She bought me jeans, jerseys, trainers and a nice jacket.

Linwood Hall Residential School, Leven

201. I was almost twelve years old when I went to Linwood Hall. Mrs Kidd drove me there, and Mr LUT SNR met us when we arrived.
202. It was a huge, old building with big grounds. There was a big wall around it, with three different entrances. There was a beautiful summer house, an aviary, and about four ponds with big fish in it. They also grew their own fruit and vegetables there. It was really nice.
203. After Mrs Kidd left, Mr LUT showed me around the place. The big dining hall was on the ground floor. There were big stairs going up, and a corridor going off it, which led to an outbuilding and the boys' dormitories were on each side of a corridor. There were four boys in each room and they had their own beds.
204. Mr LUT told me I wasn't allowed to go upstairs because that was where the girls were.

205. He told me how the place was run and how he liked things. He told me he didn't want any swearing or fighting, and to stick in at school. He told me kids got rewarded for doing well at school and not getting in trouble. I was told there would be outings where kids would get taken out on trips.
206. There were about 25 boys there, and less girls. The age range was from about 11 years old up to about 16 or 17 years old. I think I was the youngest there.
207. There were about 4 boys who were about 16 and 17 year old, and they had their own dormitory.
208. The staff there were called KZP [REDACTED], KNH [REDACTED], David Murphy, and a guy called KZR [REDACTED] who was a wee, fat guy.
209. Mr LUT [REDACTED] had a house [REDACTED], KNH [REDACTED] stayed in the home overnight but the rest were day staff, but they would sometimes be there at night.

Routine at Linwood Hall

210. I was put into a dormitory with boys who were about a year older than me.
211. You got up in the morning, got washed and dressed. You wore your own clothes in Linwood.
212. The school was in the building, and we went there during the day.
213. We had three meals a day and the food was fine in there.
214. I wasn't wetting the bed anymore. I think there was a boy called [REDACTED] who wet the bed. He was ridiculed by the staff and other boys. I made friends with him and didn't ridicule him because I knew what it felt like.

215. You could go and shower whenever you wanted to in there.
216. Sometimes, I would help out in the garden at the weekends. They grew their own fruit and veg, and I liked the gooseberries.
217. All the boys went home every fortnight and the place would be shut. I would be sent to some other home or foster placement every second weekend.

Visits and family contact

218. Nobody from my family came to visit me at Linwood Hall. I didn't speak to or see my mum at all.
219. Mrs Kidd was now my social worker and she came to see me.
220. I would tell her that I wanted to leave Linwood Hall because I couldn't keep up with the school work. I also told her that I couldn't handle how they were just sending me here, there and everywhere at the weekends.
221. She could see that I needed some stability and eventually found me somewhere else to go after I'd been in Linwood for ten months.

Schooling

222. The classes were small in Linwood Hall and were in the same building as everything else.
223. Some teachers came from outside, but some of the staff taught as well.
224. I was too far behind in my education. I was slow and wasn't able to keep up. The teachers would tell Mr LUT I was too far behind with my school work.

225. I got some sex education in Linwood Hall.

Healthcare

226. I had to get an operation on my testicles because [KZH] had twisted them two years earlier when I was in Playfield Children's Unit. I was having problems and a lot of pain so I went to Victoria Hospital for that.

227. I started self-harming when I was in Linwood. I hated a lot of things in my life. I saw my life as having a lot of hatred, and the love was only small.

Trips and visits

228. There were some trips out in the vans that were fun.

229. There were two vans that went out usually, with two members of staff in each one. We sometimes went out at night with torches to see deer, and once to a caravan park.

230. The trips out were usually through the week, but sometimes at the weekend when everybody was there.

231. I never went on any holidays.

Other care settings

232. Linwood shut down every second weekend. All the other boys went home to their families and I had to go to other children's homes or foster parents because I had no family to go to.

233. I was being put into these situations in other homes, where I was just dumped and I didn't know the rules. That could lead to issues with boys in other homes. Then the home would complain to Linwood staff, and I would get battered when I came back to Linwood for having being bad.

234. I went to stay with Mr and Mrs KZQ-SPO in a house in Arrochar twice, and also with a couple could called Mr and Mrs [REDACTED]. I also went to Martha Frew Children's Home, St David's Children's Home and Rimpleton Children's Home in Glenrothes.

235. Secondary Institutions - to be published later
[REDACTED]

236. Secondary Institutions - to be published later
[REDACTED]

237. When I went to stay with Mr KZQ, his family were celebrating someone getting into university. He had had a few whiskies and he told me to come over to him. When I did, he picked me up and put me on his knee and tried to touch me in a sexual way. I was embarrassed, more for him than myself.

238. I got off his lap, got my things together and said I wanted to go and wasn't staying there. I asked him to take me to my sister's house. He said it was late and I couldn't because he he'd been drinking so couldn't drive. I said I'd just walk but that I wasn't staying there. He then drove me to my sister's.

239. On the way to my sister's house at Crosshall, he gave me a fiver and bought me a fish supper.

240. When I got back to Linwood Hall, I told the staff that I didn't want to go back to stay with Mr KZQ because he'd tried to touch me. I don't know if they did anything about it, but I wasn't sent back to stay there. I wouldn't have gone even if they had tried to send me.

Discipline

241. The main discipline was putting people on what they called report. That meant you didn't get any pocket money, weren't allowed out and had to go to bed at 7 pm for a week.
242. I got punished more than most in there because I was there the most, at weekends and over holidays.

Abuse at Linwood Hall

243. David Murphy was a stickler for anti-smoking, so if he caught you smoking, he would pull you hard by the ear, or punish you by not giving you pocket money.
244. If you had an argument with a boy and couldn't sort it out, you would be made to stand outside Mr LUT's office. Mr LUT would come out and tell you to get outside on the grass and fight it out. There were rules that you weren't allowed to bite, pull hair or kick. Mr LUT would stand and watch you fight.
245. The fight would only be over when someone gave up. Boys would get really hurt and could be bleeding in the fight. That happened to me. I was beaten up and had a burst lip and black eye. My ears were ringing for days after being hit over the head.
246. I also beat up other boys when told to fight. I'm not proud of it but I had to do it and stick up for myself. I don't remember the names of the boys I fought.
247. If you were really hurt, the member of staff would patch you up. Other staff knew how the injuries happened. Everybody there knew that was how Mr LUT sorted things out between boys. I think that was a method that the army used.
248. That happened to me three times. The third time, the boy sat down outside Mr LUT's office and said he wouldn't fight. Mr LUT punished him by putting him on report.

249. I went to this foster family one weekend, called Mr and Mrs [REDACTED]. One night when I was there, I was watching football with Mr [REDACTED] and his son. After it finished, he sent his laddie to bed and told me I'd be sleeping in with him. I told him I wasn't and went to sleep in his laddie's room.
250. When I went back to Linwood Hall on Sunday, I was hauled out of my bed at some godforsaken hour by [REDACTED]. I was dragged and banged through three swing doors and into the staff sitting room.
251. [REDACTED] had long dark hair, big glasses, and was a big guy, about six foot and six inches with a really big build.
252. When he dragged me into the staff sitting room, David Murphy, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were there too. They told me I was on report for a week, which meant I had to go to bed at 7 pm, wouldn't get any pocket money and wasn't allowed out.
253. I asked what for and they said I had disobeyed an order. I think that was because I had not done what Mr [REDACTED] had told me to do, and he'd complained about me.
254. Another time, I went to a children's home in St Andrew's called St David's Children's Home. [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later
[REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later
[REDACTED]
255. I had a feeling then that I was going to get dragged out of my bed in the middle of the night again, when I got back to Linwood. I wouldn't go to sleep because I was expecting it.
256. I finally dropped off, and the same thing happened. I was dragged out of bed and into the staff room by [REDACTED]. The same staff were there. [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later
[REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later They put me on report again.

257. I got picked on more than other boys because I was around more, and they had reasons to pick on me when they got complaints from other care places.

Peer abuse

258. The older boys could just come into your room and could do an act of violence, or ask for money, which they did. I don't remember the names of any of the boys.

Sexual abuse

259. Murphy was a paedophile and he was gay as well and fancied young boys, especially if you were good looking.

260. On one occasion, while playing football, he was shooting the ball at me when I was in goals. After about half an hour of doing that he asked me if I wanted to go up to the attic. I asked what was there and he said there was archery, target shooting, table tennis and a brilliant model railway that he'd give me a shot of. I said ok.

261. We went up to the attic and he went straight for the train set, and I played with the air guns and did some target shooting. He told me to go over and see the trains. There was something about him so I went to the other side of where he was standing. I had sussed that something wasn't right.

262. He told me to come over to him to have a shot of the controls. I said I wasn't that bothered about having a shot, but he told me to come over and have a shot. I reluctantly went over and took the controls. I felt him pressing up against me so I walked away to leave. He asked me what I was doing and did I want to play with the trains. I said no and he said I'd better go then, and so I went away.

263. I think he knew that I had sussed out what he was. Murphy was in his fifties when I was at Linwood.

264. We went on trips in mini buses. I remember going on a trip in two mini buses with a group of boys. There were two members of staff in each mini bus, and they were KZP, David Murphy, KNH and that KZR.
265. We were driven somewhere near the beach, where there were other cars and vans parked up on a verge. I remember seeing several men getting out of the vans.
266. We went into the wooded area nearby and there were about six or seven caravans there. I remember seeing the men that had gotten out of the vans, had gone behind the caravans.
267. We all sat around the caravans. The other boys from Linwood who I remember being there were, , , , . It was a school day in late August, I think, because it was still light at night.
268. I remember being offered a can of beer by the staff, and it had already been opened. I drank it and so did the other boys. I had about three tins of beer and I don't remember anything after that. I was about eleven years old at the time.
269. I know what happened. I think I was raped by several people. I remember everything until after drinking the beer so I must have been drugged. It's not rocket science.
270. The next thing I remember is being back in Linwood the next day. I woke up with a pain in my back, which was sore right down to my buttock, and I don't know if that was caused by what happened.
271. None of the boys talked about the trip.
272. I didn't think anything of it at the time. It wasn't until the police spoke to me as an adult, that the penny dropped and I realised I must have been drugged and raped by more than one man that night. The police told me that some boys remembered things about being sexual abused on that trip and others didn't, so the drugs must not have worked more on some of the boys.

273. The police have told me that other people have said that I was taken to a ceilidh with them when we were boys in Linwood Hall, with the same members of staff. They told me there were between five and eight people who have said that I was there. They think I was raped there too, but I remember absolutely nothing about that. I think I must have been drugged before even being taken there.
274. The police told me that there was a register of outings and they'd seen my name on it as having been taken out to this ceilidh.

Leaving Linwood

275. I went into Linwood near [REDACTED], around [REDACTED] time. After about ten months, my social worker, Mrs Kidd, got me a seven week foster placement for the [REDACTED] holidays, in Crail.
276. The foster mum in Crail had six girls who all stayed upstairs in the house. Five were her own girls and one was fostered. I stayed downstairs. It was ok there. There was no abuse but no warmth.
277. Mrs Kidd came to visit me twice there. Once was in the last week of the holidays, and she bought me new clothes, including a school uniform for the school in Crail.
278. She told me I was going into St Margaret's Children's Home in Elie and I could stay there all the time. I didn't go back to Linwood Hall.

St Margaret's Children's Home, Elie

279. [REDACTED]

280. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Leaving St Margaret's Children's Home

298. When I left school, I got a job at ██████ Castle, with the National Trust for Scotland. The home got me a five speed racer to cycle back and forward to work.
299. I had turned sixteen and it was time for me to leave the home. They couldn't get me a house of my own because I wasn't from that area so I ended up in a hostel in Dunfermline. ██████ Secondary Institutions - to be published later
300. I was in the hostel for about a year, then it shut down.

Life after being in care

301. I moved back to Ballingry after the hostel shut down, and have stayed there since.
302. I got a job delivering things to pubs. I enjoyed that job as it took me all over the country, and I met a few famous people who owned pubs.
303. I tried to go back and live with my mum when I was about 21 years old, but she was so house proud, which is an illness, and she wasn't having it. I stayed with cousins for a while.
304. Life has been hard. I have mainly been on benefits and sick pay because of my sore back, which started when I was in Linwood Hall. I have a back brace that I am supposed to wear and am on medication for the pain. I also have a gammy arm.
305. I tried to have a relationship with my mother but it was difficult. I lost her to cancer in 1983. She had left a will and left everything to me, which was a surprise.
306. I also didn't have any kind of relationship with my brothers. They always resented me for having their father's name. I was close to my sisters, especially ██████. They are both dead now. I am close to my sister's daughter.

307. The only positive thing in my life was my marriage and my children. I have five children and five grandchildren. Sadly my marriage is broken now.

Impact

308. I've been a good man. I wouldn't purposely hurt someone, but I was made to fight other boys, by Mr LUT in Linwood Hall, and would have hurt them, which I'm not proud of when I think about it.

309. Being in Playfield definitely had an impact on my education because I never had any. Then when I was given any schooling, I was always just trying to catch up.

310. I don't know how much of that is because I had a hard birth or because I'm slow.

311. I saw a head doctor specialist in Kirkcaldy. He said that because I was put here, there and everywhere in care, as a child, and didn't have a family unit, that it's affected my brain. He says I am wired up wrong, but there is a proper medical term for it.

312. The specialist also told me that there's a part of my brain that doesn't store information. He said signals in my brain are messed up because of the horrendous childhood I had. It has gotten worse as I have gotten older.

313. The nagging doubt and nightmares are always there. I am not able to deal with things and I panic a lot.

314. I never had a good relationship with my own family growing up because my mum kept me away.

315. When I got married, I never told my family about my abuse, until my niece was abused by someone in the community. I was able to tell that something was not right with her and I said something was wrong. When it came out, I told my wife about my

experiences. I was in my thirties by then, and it was the first time I had told anyone about what happened to me.

316. There has been an impact on my family life. My family has all split up now and I don't get to see my grandchildren.
317. I've never really been able to relate to people, which I put down to being in care. I find that people don't really understand me.
318. I look at my own children and what they've achieved because they've had a stable home, it makes me think what I could have done and could have been if I had stability and a decent education.
319. I have back problems, and my back is sore at the bottom of my spine. This started after the camping trip in Linwood.
320. The condition has been diagnosed with a big, long name, that I don't remember. I went to see a surgeon about it as an adult, and he asked if I'd been in an accident. I said I hadn't and he didn't understand how it had happened. I have never been able to work properly because of the pain.

Treatment and support

321. I had some counselling at Safe Space in Dunfermline. I have also been to see psychologists over the years.
322. I am on medication for my pain and to help me sleep, which sort of helps.

Reporting of Abuse

323. I went to Digby Brown Solicitors but they couldn't do anything for me because of the time bar.

324. I never went to the police because Christie, who abused me in Ovenstone, had been reported at the time.
325. The police approached me in 1999 about David Murphy in Linwood Hall because other people had come forward and made complaints about him. They told me that between five and eight guys had named me as being one of the boys who was taken out and abused.
326. They didn't give me details of what the other boys had said because they needed to hear my evidence. I couldn't remember anything because I had been drugged, but I did learn that I had been abused.
327. The police told me about a register of outings that was kept by Linwood, which showed that I had been taken out with the other boys.
328. The police told me that I wouldn't need to go to court if Murphy pled guilty, but I would need to give evidence if he pled not guilty.
329. The next thing I saw, Murphy was on the news and he got fifteen years or something for abusing boys in Linwood and St Margaret's, where he worked before he worked at Linwood. He must have pled guilty. He died within a year of being in prison.
330. There were also allegations against KZP, but he left the country and couldn't be found.
331. I think the police still should have come back and told me what had happened. Fair enough I wasn't able to tell them what happened to me because I had been drugged, but other boys were able to say what had happened to me because they'd seen it.
332. Fife council had given Murphy a big house in Troon when he retired. It was an absolute disgrace.

333. I also told the police about the abuse at Ovenstone when I spoke to them in 1999. They wrote it down, but they wouldn't have done anything about that because it had already been reported at the time, and Christie was dead by then.

Records

334. Digby Brown Solicitors helped me get my medical records from my time at Playfield Children's Unit. KZG [redacted] and KZI [redacted] wrote not very nice things in them. They said I was disruptive.

335. I also got my social work records from Glenrothes Social Work Department. They were all blanked out.

Other information

336. People who work with kids, need to show more love, support and encouragement. They need to consider what the child's future will look like, and give them a bit of reasonable discipline that will help them in the future.

337. 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..... KZF [redacted]

Dated..... 30 11 20