

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

KWJ

Support person present: no

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

Life before going into care

2. I was born and raised in Livingston. My parents' names were and . I had a brother called who was five years older and five sisters. I was the youngest in the family. My sisters were called , , , and . I never met . Prior to me going into care all my sister with the exception of were in care themselves, and when I went into care, all my sisters had left home and where married other than who was in a care home at the same time as me. I think that was about three years older than me and was about 12 years older than me.
3. My home life was very violent and my mother and father fought all the time. My dad was very violent and my mother was very selfish and not a caring person. Now looking back I feel I was neglected. She only cared about herself. I think that all my siblings apart from and ended up in the care system at one time or another.
4. I went to Riverside Primary School and also Almondbank School. I had problems at School and was transferred to School in Ladywell. was a

special school for children with problems. I could not get on with my teacher at Almondbank primary School and I was always being punished for one thing or another. I think I must have been about nine or ten at the time when I went to [REDACTED].

5. I had been at [REDACTED] for about one year and one day when I came home my mother told me that I was moving to a boarding school called Monken Hadley. All that I recall was that I didn't want to go there and I told my mother this but I had no choice. Every time my parents would split up it usually meant that me or my siblings were put into care. The reason I ended up going to Monken Hadley was because I was with another boy when he stole a teacher's purse. Although I had nothing to do with it, I was accused of the theft and it gave the opportunity to my mother to get me placed into care, but the theft of this purse was the sole reason I was placed into care, I was happy at [REDACTED].
6. I don't recall ever going to a children's panel or that there was a social worker or police involvement. I tried to explain to the teachers that I had nothing to do with the theft of the purse and that I had not spent any of the money. I don't think that anyone was listening to me.
7. I recall travelling to Monken Hadley to see what the place was like. I travelled with my mother and another woman in a car. I was travel sick the whole way there so when I arrived, I was not feeling at all well. We were shown round the school and after about an hour we drove home. I recall telling my mother when I got home that I did not want to go there.
8. On the visit to Monken Hadley I was shown round the school by another boy. I recall that we were given a meal in a room that was like a staff room. I recall that we met an elderly couple who owned the school at that time. I can't recall their name but they sold the school not long after to a Mr ^HSO [REDACTED] and Mrs [REDACTED].
9. I came back from [REDACTED] school one day and my mother told me that I was going to boarding school at Monken Hadley. She had organised a grant to buy my

clothes to wear there. The woman with the car took my mother and me to the school and I was again travel sick. I was either ten or eleven. I don't know who the woman was that drove the car.

Monken Hadley, Newton Stewart, Dumfriesshire, Renamed, Woodland School.

10. The school was in Newton Stewart in Dumfriesshire. It was situated at the top end of Newton Stewart. There were woods in the grounds and an old folks' home close by. There was another school and some housing situated nearby. I think that there was another building connected to the main building which was sold off and no longer used by the school.
11. I recall that the school looked like an old stately home set in its own grounds. From the main road you entered at an angle and then there was a driveway that went uphill to the school. There was a bungalow at the top of the hill that was occupied by the old couple that owned the school, and then the HSO-SPO when they owned the school. I can't recall the names of the old couple.
12. As you got close to the school there was a large court yard which was like a car park. It was tarred but there were also large stones in it. You could drive to the back of the school. When stood facing the school from the outside, the main entrance was in the middle of the school and the dining room was off to the right and on left hand side of the main entrance were the classrooms.
13. Inside the building there were numerous exits, and to leave a unit, other than the senior's unit you had to come down the main staircase in order to leave the main building. I was originally in the junior unit on the first floor. The senior's unit was on the next floor and the third floor became the girl's unit, when they were introduced into the school. When I first arrived, there were no girls and there was someone living on the third floor but I don't know who they were. All units, the juniors, seniors, girls and the special unit all had their own living area, bathroom facilities as well as bedrooms, but the special unit was the only unit with its own dedicated classroom.

14. When you came down the staircase there was a small hall with a telephone box. You walked through the large hall to get to the main entrance. In the small hall there was a door that lead you to the classrooms and to the kitchen area. There were downstairs toilets and access to the cellar. There was a laundry washing area for clothing and bedding off the main hall.
15. There were no real sports facilities in the grounds. If you went downhill from the courtyard there were steps down to a football pitch which did not have goal posts.
16. When Mr and Mrs HSO-SPO took over the school they had built timber classrooms and had a portacabin installed, in the grounds of the school. It was soon after the time that the HSO-SPO took over that the school changed its name to Woodlands School. There were also changes in the routine at the school but the abuse didn't stop.
17. I think that there were about forty five boys attending at the school. The ages ranged between ten and sixteen. We were all in dormitories and the number of dormitories and those using them would vary depending on the number of boys at the school. It could range between four and twelve for the numbers in each dormitory. We slept in bunk beds. My first dormitory was later used as a sitting room, but originally it had about twelve of us sleeping in their in the bunk beds.
18. I started off in the "juniors" as all boys aged under fourteen did, when turned 14 pupils went to the seniors, but only when beds became available. I went from the juniors before I was 14 to a special discipline unit for approximately six months to a year before I moved up to the seniors. Pupils placed in the special unit, were those that questioned and complained about the conditions and treatment at the school.

Staff

19. You had to call all the staff sir or madam. When I first arrived, the school was run by an older couple whose name I can't recall. They in turn sold the school to Mr and

Mrs HSO-SPO. I wasn't there for long with the older couple. The HSO-SPO changed the name of the school to Woodlands School. Mr and Mrs HSO-SPO came from Zimbabwe and they were both teachers.

20. Mr KXJ was the man who cared for the boys out of school hours. He was part of the care staff. Mr KXJ never had a direct caring responsibility for me other than when I was in the special unit. My care was provided by Miss KXP who was in charge of the juniors. Mr Thorburn senior worked night shift looking after the boys in the junior and senior units.
21. Beth Marr was a very nice lady who was very good to me. When I was about fourteen or fifteen during a School holiday, I went to stay with her at her own house for a few weeks. Miss Banks and Miss MacDonald were also there. I went to stay there because I was not eating and Beth Marr thought she may be able to get my eating habits sorted out. My stay with Beth Marr was the first time I experienced the love and care of normal family life. I think that Beth Marr had separated from her husband and I recall that she had two little girls. I think that this may have been over the Easter holidays. I do recall that Beth was a very good-looking woman and the boys would ask her for a kiss at bedtime, but one of the boys, called [REDACTED] used to take it to the extreme. She would give you a kiss on the forehead which was lovely.
22. There was another member of staff called KWG who took the class of pupils back to her house on a few occasions. KWG was one of my teachers. Mr Heap was another teacher.
23. There were two kinds of staff. There was the teaching staff and the care staff who looked after you outside of the classroom. I think that the care staff worked a shift system and it depended who was on duty as to who looked after you. I think that the night shift care staff stayed in the school overnight and went home in the morning.
24. Miss Banks who came from England and Miss McDonald who came from Glasgow stayed in the school and looked after the girls who were boarding. They were both very nice people.

25. There was a cook who was a lovely older lady and later on in my schooling at Monken Hadley which had been renamed by then to Woodland School I would go and sit with her at lunchtime and talk to her. There was also cleaning staff who I worked with instead of going to school classes from being approx. aged 14 until I became old enough to leave School. They were all good people.
26. Mr Thorburn senior worked at the school as a carer. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Once, on the day I was due to go home, I was told, without explanation why that my parents didn't want me at home and I was going to stay with Mr Thorburn senior.
27. Sometime after this Mr Thorburn senior passed away while I was at the school. On the day of Mr Thorburn senior passing away one of the pupils called [REDACTED] [REDACTED] laughed, I asked him why he'd laughed and he told me it was a nervous reaction, Mr [REDACTED] KXJ who was a friend of Mr Thorburn senior battered [REDACTED] [REDACTED], punching and kicking him as a punishment.
28. [REDACTED] KXL was a member of staff, he was my carer after Miss [REDACTED] KXP left. He drove the mini buses that took you home and collected you after the holidays. He also took you on some school trips. He was a good bloke.

Routine at Monken Hadley, renamed Woodland School

First day

29. I remember arriving at the school having been travel sick, I was introduced to some of the other boys and then I went down to the dining hall to have something to eat. I was sat at a single table that was like a school desk. I remember looking out the window and seeing a long driveway and a bungalow across from where I was sat.

30. This was to be my first introduction to Mr KXJ a staff member, a carer and the start of the abuse I was subjected to by him. He grabbed me by the hair and picked up the knife I was going to eat with and continually whacked me on the back of the hand with the handle, this was while I was looking out the window and I could see my mother and this other woman driving away. This was my first experience of the school, I have no idea what I had done wrong to warrant the assault on me by Mr KXJ.
31. I remember that I went into the courtyard and I was crying after what Mr KXJ did to me.

Mornings and bedtime

32. I was shown the dormitory where I was going to be sleeping on the previous trip that I had made to the school with my mother. The dormitory had about twelve other boys. I recall that we changed dormitory every year. The first dormitory I stayed in was the largest in the school and became a sitting room during the time I was there. We each had a bedside cabinet where we kept our clothes. We had three sets of clothing for wearing whilst we were at school, we had pyjamas, a school uniform and casual clothes for playing in at night time.
33. We had to go to church on a Sunday which was compulsory and for that we had to wear our school uniform.
34. When HSO-SPO arrived at the school it was soon after that the girls arrived. The arrangements changed in that the juniors were on the first floor, the seniors on the second floor and the girls on the top floor. There was also an area between the juniors and the seniors, I believe this area originally wasn't used. It was an area off the staircase.
35. Mr and Mrs HSO-SPO asked Mr KXJ to turn this area into a special unit for some of the children with discipline problems and needed to be punished. This unit consisted of one or two bedrooms, living area, shower, toilet facilities and one room

dedicated to a classroom, Mr Heap was the teacher in this classroom. Mr [KXJ] took charge of the unit out of school hours. I remember that [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and I were all placed in this unit under the control of Mr [KXJ] and we were totally isolated from all the other pupils other than when we were outside and went for meals. Every morning we had to make up bed blocks like the army, which meant striping our beds and folding the bedding in precise squares at the bottom of our beds, Mr [KXJ] check these and if not correct they had to be re-done, after leaving the school room we had to stand by our beds until Mr [KXJ] gave us permission to make our beds and these had to be made in a military fashion and again if they weren't correct they had to be remade again, this happened every day along with checking our underwear. We had to take cold showers every morning. He would get us up at six in the morning to clean the unit. It was just like being in the military.

36. The entire School had an assembly with Mr and Mrs [HSO-SPO] every Friday. During this assembly any of the pupils could raise any issues that were bothering them or make suggestions. Pupils did make suggestions, but no one ever said a word of complaint or raised matters that bothered them, as they were too frightened of the consequences if Mr [KXJ] found out, we also knew that if we complained the [HSO-SPO] wouldn't act upon it. Some of us took a turn at chairing the meeting, I was one of the pupils that regularly chaired the meetings. I do recall one of the boys called [REDACTED] asking the [HSO-SPO] if we could have quilts for our beds instead of blankets. The [HSO-SPO] sorted that out for us.
37. In the juniors and seniors, we would be woken up in the morning by whatever staff member was on duty, at 7am. We would get up and go for a shower. Then we would get dressed. Every day we would make our beds and tidy up the unit. We would sweep the floor with a brush. We all had a chore to do. The cleaners didn't clean the units.
38. We would then have breakfast and go to school. There was a break for lunch and then back to school which finished at about four o'clock. We would get a cup of tea

and a cake at that time, not long after the HSO-SPO took ownership, this was done away with. We had the evening meal about six o'clock. We would be in bed at nine.

39. After school we had to wear our casual clothes. When we went to bed it was to sleep and not to talk. I remember that there were shutters and curtains on the bedroom windows and the members of staff would wake you by opening the curtains and shutters.
40. I don't recall any of the care staff having to deal with any incidents through the night other than pupils absconding. I do recall we had a fire drill but that was always through the day. The only movement at night was when Mr KXJ took the boys out of bed to punish them which was really abusing them.
41. When the HSO-SPO owned the school, girls were introduced into the school. I think that the first girls that came were called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I can't quite recall [REDACTED] surname, it could have been [REDACTED]. There was also a girl called [REDACTED]. Originally there were about six girls there, this number increased over time to about twelve. To be honest most of the boys were delighted to see the arrival of the girls but it didn't stop the violence and abuse from Mr KXJ.
42. A few years after the HSO-SPO came to the school there was an annual fete run by the school which raised money. The money was then divided amongst the units, the sum allocated due to how many pupils were in each unit. Each unit decided how they would spend the money.

Mealtimes / Food

43. When you went to the dining room you could sit where you wanted. You had to line up before you went in. The tables would be set with bread and we would get our own plate and cutlery. At breakfast it was porridge, a slice of bread and marmalade when the older couple were there.

44. At lunch time you had a main meal and pudding and the evening meal was soup, and a main course. The cook never forgot any of the boy's or girl's birthdays and they would always get a cake made by her which was shared around with the other children in their unit. The food was okay to be honest but I didn't like mushroom soup or toad in the hole.
45. I was unable to eat broccoli, brussel sprouts or cauliflower. Mr [KXJ] would force me to eat these foods. He would force me even if I was being sick. If I was physically sick, then Mr [KXJ] would force me to eat all the food and my own vomit. It was the reason that I stopped eating meals. The only thing I would eat was bread and jam. After about six months of only eating bread and jam they took me to the local doctor's surgery in Newton Stewart and the doctor said that as long as I was eating something I would be alright. I didn't see any other pupils being force fed.

Washing / bathing

46. There were communal showers in the juniors, with only four shower heads. We stood waiting our turn in the area of the showers. There was no privacy in the juniors. When I moved to the seniors there were individual cubicles which allowed you some privacy. In the juniors Miss [KXP] supervised the showering.

Clothing / uniform

47. You wore a school uniform during school hours and when attending church on a Sunday. You wore your own casual clothes the rest of the time. You had your pyjamas for bed time.

School

48. I went to classes in the school up until the time I was fourteen. I wasn't eating properly and I hated going to school. I became friendly with two of the cleaning staff who were very nice to me. They encouraged me to eat and I would stay with them all day cleaning including Mr and Mrs [HSO-SPO] bungalow instead of going to

classes. I had very little education. I think that this had been agreed by the HSO-SPO, because the HSO-SPO or my teacher, KWG never question why I wasn't attending classes.

49. I think that there were three classrooms when I first attended the school, all in the main building. There were three main teachers when the HSO-SPO took over the School, one teacher I don't recall her name, KWG and Mrs who taught in the classes, although Mrs stopped teaching later. It was when I moved into KWG's class that I spent my time with the cleaners instead of in school lessons.
50. When I did attend class, we were taught the basic subjects, reading, writing and maths and only to basic level, no science or languages. It was primary school teaching. I have never had experience of secondary schooling as I didn't attend the classes to be taught, but I had to do exams.

Religion

51. You had to attend church on a Sunday. The Catholics went to their church and the Protestants to their one. You had to use five pence of your pocket money for the collection at church. I did attend Sunday school but I did not enjoy it. I never had to attend church when I was at home and was not religious.

Trips / Holidays

52. There were the usual three school holidays during the year. There was one occasions when I never went back home at a school break because my parents didn't want me home. I stayed with Mr and Mrs Thorburn senior on this occasion. On one occasion while I was at home from school on holiday, my parents agreed that I could go and stay Beth Marr.
53. When I did go home to my parents my sister was usually there and we got on very well. She was in a home in Dundee. My sister would phone me when I was at

the school. I couldn't phone her because I couldn't afford to with the pocket money I was being given. My father was less violent towards me than my siblings and despite the conditions at home it was nice to be home and away from the school.

Leisure

54. Unless you were on an E grade and after Miss KXP left, we would be taken out by KXL on trips to Stranraer. I remember on one trip I got lost in the woods and I got into a panic. A few years after the HSO-SPO took ownership they would take us all on a holiday from the school for a week, we used to go to a hut, bothy style building built by the military, we also went camping near a beach. We would stay in tents but I recall that it was cold and we only had one blanket. We were always accompanied by some staff including always Mr KXJ.

Birthdays and Christmas

55. Every pupil at the school would get a cake baked for them by the cook. She never forgot anyone's birthday. That is the type of woman she was. She knew everything that was going on in the school and was not always happy with it. I spent a lot of time in her company when I was not attending class, including when I was working with the cleaners.
56. You usually went home at Christmas time. When the HSO-SPO came they introduced mini buses and used them to get us home and to be collected for going back to school. There was one occasion at Christmas time when the school mini bus came to pick me up and I wasn't at my parents, as I didn't want to go back to school, so the mini bus was unable to collect me, so my father took me to Glasgow airport and put me on a service bus to Newton Stewart. My parents were back together at this time and did not want me at home. I jumped off the bus and made my way back to Livingston. My father battered me and after a couple of weeks at home the mini bus came and collected me and took me back to the school.

Pocket money

57. There was a points system where you started the week with 126 points. You would lose points for bad behaviour, these points could be deducted for anything from swearing to not making your bed correctly, but these points could also be deducted without a reason given, or you could automatically be put on an E grade, these points were deducted by teaching and caring staff, including Mr [KXJ]. I was one of the boys who ended up losing most of his points every week. It meant that when you got your pocket money you had to use part of it to pay to go into the cinema every Saturday and also for the collection at church, which meant I had nothing left most weeks. I can still remember having to stand for the national anthem when it was played in the cinema, at the time I was both a Nationalist and a Republican. Miss [KXP] insisted on us going to the cinema and standing up when the national anthem was played, if you didn't stand, then on return to the School Miss [KXP] would get Mr [KXJ] to you, and we all knew what that meant. I was entitled to be paid £2 per week for working with the cleaners, but as I got less than a C grade it meant I lost the £2 every week.
58. When you turned fourteen the school would allow you to smoke if you had written permission from your parents. My mother gave me permission to smoke. I couldn't afford to call out but my sister would call me on the phone.

Visits / Inspections/ Review of Detention

59. Inspectors came to the school regularly, maybe once or twice a year, I remember at one of the assemblies being told visitors were coming to inspect the school. Mr and Mrs [HSO-SPO] told the boys to stay away from them and not speak to them. If they came towards us, we were to make a bee line in another direction and make out that we had to be somewhere else. I don't recall speaking to any of the inspectors and I don't recall the inspectors speaking to any of the boys or girls. If we embarrassed the staff in front of the inspectors we would be punished and that was made plain to us.

60. I didn't know who these people were when they were inspecting the school. It wasn't until I spoke to a lawyer in approx. 2005 that I learned that these people were local authority educational inspectors.
61. I recall that my parents came to visit me on only one occasion when my father was working nearby. I think that he only came to show off his new car. They took me out for the day. It was very rare that parents came to visit any of the pupils.

Healthcare

62. There was no medical help when you were in the school, there was no resident nurse or doctor, nor did either attend the school to my knowledge, other than to attend [REDACTED]. Even when Mr [KXJ] burst my head open and it wouldn't stop bleeding, I wasn't seen by any medical staff or first aider, nor were the pupils seen by medical staff or first aiders when abused and injured as a result of abuse, we just went to bed, bleeding or aching. You had to look after yourself. I did make one trip to the local doctor in Newton Stewart when I wasn't eating properly and as a result of this, I had lost a lot of weight, but he basically said that if I was eating something I would be fine. All I could eat at that time was bread and jam. I stopped eating because all I wanted was to get away from the school and Mr [KXJ] and Miss [KXP] abusing me.

Running away

63. I never ran away when I was at Monken Hadley/Woodland School. I know that some children did run away and I recall that two of them suffered from hypothermia and ended up in hospital. I think that one of their names was [REDACTED] and the other [REDACTED]. If you ran away you would be punished and put on an E grade.

Discipline/Punishment

64. There was a school belt that you could get from Mr [HSO], which he used on pupil's hands. Mr [HSO] stopped issuing punishments and this was left to other

members of staff, but Mr ^{KXJ} was more fond of grabbing your hair and slapping you about the face, kicking including while you were down and punching you, and as detailed throughout this statement.

65. There was a system where everyone got 126 points at the beginning of the week and there were deductions for bad behaviour. At the end of the week the people with the most points would receive the most pocket money. I think that pocket money day was a Friday so the system ran till a Thursday night. Prior to me attending and throughout my entire time at the school, deducting points was the established form of punishment without having to use any form of violence, then why did the owners, the old couple and the ^{HSO-SPO} allow in addition to the deduction of points, cruelty towards the pupils, for instance, brushing the playground/carpark with a toothbrush while they had bare legs, locking us in a dark cellar, making us sit bare arsed on stone steps and pupils being physically punished by members of staff, which in actual fact became physical abuse. When the ^{HSO-SPO} were in charge, a pupil called once slapped a teacher, this resulted in the pupil being removed from the school within a couple of days. Why then could a pupil be removed for slapping a teacher, when this teacher was constantly picking on him, because of his race, but staff members were allowed to physically and sexual abuse children, causing many injuries including physical, mental and even loss of life, with impunity. If the ^{HSO-SPO} could take decisive action against , why couldn't they do the same against the abusers of the pupils. The ^{HSO-SPO} made a conscious choice not to reprimand the members of staff that abused pupils, not to stop the abuse and not to report it to the authorities and or police. Mr ^{HSO} and Mrs had double standards, they had zero tolerance for violence against teachers, but staff had carte blanche to be violent and abusive towards pupils at the School.
66. After school on a Friday there was a school assembly held in the dining room. At this assembly the pupils had a chance to tell the staff things that they would like to see change.

67. You could be put on an E grade which meant that you got no pocket money and you received different punishments all that week. These punishments were that you were banned from smoking, you were not allowed to watch TV, you had to go to bed before everybody else, couldn't go on any outings, no pocket money. I can remember as one of these different punishments being given a toothbrush and told to clean the playground/carpark, this was while wearing shorts, and your knees and lower leg would be bare on the hard tarmac and stone ground, and this had to be done every day for a week. These were procedures set in the school rules and could be administered and over seen by any member of staff, these punishments applied to every child, both girls and boys.
68. The only time that you got the belt was by Mr HSO and it was for something you did when you were in the classroom. He would give you five strokes on each hand, I remember one time he hit me so hard that he cut the palm of my hand open. Mr KXJ had different methods.

Bed Wetting

69. I think that some of the boys did wet the bed but they would be given plastic sheets and they had to change their bed every day. They were given fresh bed clothes if they did wet the bed. I was not a bed wetter.

Abuse at Monken Hadley/Woodland School

70. My first experience with Mr KXJ was on the first day at the school. I don't know what I did to him but as he was pulling my hair and continually hitting the back of my hand with the handle of a knife that I was to use with my meal, which was very painful. I could see my mother driving away and this made me very afraid from the first day being there.
71. The only time I felt safe at the school was when Mr KXJ was not on duty. Even on his days off Mr KXJ would come into the school as a form of intimidation. He

would ask us what we had been up to and that if he found out anything bad he would see us when he was back on duty, this meant when he was back on duty, during the night he would come and see you and carry out abuse. When the old couple owned the school, Mr KXJ was really in charge of the seniors in the same role as Miss KXP was with the juniors, but after Mr & Mrs HSO-SPO took over ownership a short while after this Mr KXJ was promoted, after we reported the abuse to Mr and Mrs HSO-SPO, and he was in charge of the other staff under the HSO-SPO, additionally later when the special unit was established he became in charge of that. I was only under the direct care of Mr KXJ when I spent time in a special unit between leaving the juniors and going into the seniors, but this didn't stop Mr KXJ abusing me from the first day I was in school right up to the day he left the school. When I got to the seniors Mr KXJ was still in charge of the special unit.

72. Mr KXJ was not afraid of what he was doing to us he did it openly and in front of other pupils and other members of staff, and the HSO-SPO knew about the abuse because we reported the abuse and the specifics of the abuse to them a few weeks after they came to the school. Miss KXP would tell him if we had been bad when we were in the juniors and he would come to punish us, this consisting of him telling us he would see us later on, and later meant during the night, when it was quiet, and the punishment he dealt was not punishment but abuse. He would hit us like we were fully grown men, using his fists and kicking us. The physical abuse, mental and emotional abuse from Mr KXJ didn't stop when Mr & Mrs HSO-SPO arrived at the school, it continued and got worse, because it resulted in [REDACTED] losing his life and a girl being sexually abused.
73. Mr KXJ would force me to eat. He would stand over me in the dining room until I had eaten what was on my plate, including eating any of my own vomit. He would force my head down to the plate and force me to eat the food, including sprouts and cauliflower, which I still can't eat to this day, they make me baulk. There were other members of staff about who saw him doing this. I was in the juniors when my eating problems started and that is when Miss KXP took me to the doctors.

74. Miss KXP came into the doctor's surgery with me. I think that this was the first and only time I went to the doctors. I can't recall the name of the doctor but the surgery was in Newton Stewart. I didn't tell the doctor why I was not eating. He directed most of the conversation towards Miss KXP. I think he asked me how I felt and I told him I was okay. The doctor told Miss KXP that as long as I was eating something I would be fine.
75. Mr KXJ would get us up out of our beds during the night and lock us alone in an underground cellar near the kitchen area for as long as he wanted, which could be an hour or several hours at a time, wearing only pyjamas, and the cellar was full of water. There were lights in the cellar but I couldn't find them. So I was in the dark feeling very scared. It was a terrifying experience. This happened to me on two separate occasions once prior and once after the HSO-SPO took over. Mr KXJ also threatened and did put pupils in a room with senior boys, and these boys had been instructed to beat you up and this is what happened, or he'd threaten us with having senior boys come into the dormitory while we were sleeping and batter us. I was threatened with these by Mr KXJ but it never happened to me, but you always had this in the back of your mind.
76. Mr KXJ would also get us up through the night and make us sit on the stairs in the main staircase. He would make us take our pyjamas pants down and sit naked from the waist down on the cold concrete/stone steps for hours at a time. It always happened through the night and he wouldn't supervise us he just left us there. Sometimes I was with other children and other times I was on my own, and if we needed the toilet we would have to pee where we were.
77. On one occasion one of the boys wrote something like "KXJ is a bastard" on the toilet wall using faeces. Mr KXJ got wind of this and decided to punish us so after school was finished, he lined the whole school in the large hall and asked the person who had written the message to own up, we all stood there for hours. No one came forward so at 6pm still wearing our school uniforms we went into the dining room, after our meal we returned to the large hall and again had to stand until it was time for bed.

78. The next morning he continued the punishment he got all of the junior school to go into the school yard for exercise, this exercise lasted for more than hour and only ended because [REDACTED] collapsed and died. At the school there was no gym teacher, nor had we ever had gym lessons or exercise classes. He stopped us from attending the classroom that morning. He took us into the school yard in front of the school entrance where he made us exercise, which consisted of touching our toes and what I can only describe as military exercises. He then took us to the bottom of the drive and had us continually running up and down the hill to the bungalow, and wouldn't allow us to stop, when we weren't running, we had to run on the spot.
79. One of the boys called [REDACTED] collapsed and died during this exercise, when this happened [REDACTED] was running towards me coming down from the hill, so I could see him and his face as he collapsed, fell and then died in front of me, he grabbed hold of me. As the ambulance left, we were told that [REDACTED] had died and that he had a weak heart and he would have died anyway even if he had been walking up stairs. The point was that we were not exercising but were being punished and not allowed to stop. We were all being driven to the state of collapse through fatigue/exhaustion and [REDACTED] did collapse and died as a result of this punishment. There was a system of discipline already in place by the school, the graded system by the deduction of points, but Mr [REDACTED] bypassed this and substituted it with cruelty that ultimately resulted in the needless loss of the life of [REDACTED]. Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] could have and should have finally put a stop to the cruelty and the reign of terror by Mr [REDACTED] at school then, but instead they did nothing to stop this, and Mr [REDACTED] stayed at the school for years and continued his abuse, which finally resulted in a girl being sexually abused before the [REDACTED] finally took action, but only by the removal of Mr [REDACTED], but to the best of my knowledge the [REDACTED] didn't report it to the police or the authorities. Where was the duty of care to the children under their control?
80. Mr [REDACTED] took all the juniors down to the bottom of the drive and placed us in three columns, [REDACTED] was in my column and was directly in front of me, the first row ran up and down the hill, while the others ran on the spot, when the row got to the

bottom of the hill they tagged the next row who ran up the hill, and those that had just come down the hill went to the back and ran on the spot. [REDACTED] was immediately in front of me running down the hill and towards me when he grabbed on to me and collapsed onto the ground. [REDACTED] told us to help him drag him off the driveway and onto the side of the woods, but I think he was already dead. Mr [REDACTED] then told us all to go back to the school and to ask somebody to call an ambulance, we did this. I remember that an ambulance was called and there was flashing blue lights.

81. We were all told to go back to the school while a doctor and an ambulance were called, none of the pupils were allowed to talk to the doctor or ambulance staff, or indeed any police if they were involved. I think that [REDACTED] was already dead. The staff told us that [REDACTED] had a weak heart and this is what caused his death. I didn't believe this and it has always haunted me, and what [REDACTED] parents, and the authorities were told. He was such a nice and quiet boy and he collapsed and died because we were being excessively punished for someone writing a derogatory comment about Mr [REDACTED] and Mr [REDACTED] taking extreme action as a punishment.
82. Mr [REDACTED] would have no hesitation in punching and kicking you. He would also throw you down the stairs and was allowed to do whatever he wanted, he did these to me. I remember when the girls came to the school he took a shine to a particular lassie. She would sit on his knee and he would put his hand up her skirt between her legs. I think the girl was about twelve. All the staff would see this happening and do nothing about it. I can't recall the girl's name. I felt hopeless not being able to ask the girl if she was okay for fear of being on Mr [REDACTED]'s radar.
83. There was another occasion when a boys called [REDACTED] and me were coming back to the school from a day in the town. On the way back we killed a hedgehog. Mr [REDACTED] heard about it from [REDACTED] and summoned [REDACTED] and me to the living room in the seniors, although we were still in the juniors at the time, the living room was full of all the senior pupils. He layed right into us' with a bamboo stick hitting us all over our bodies. [REDACTED] got it worse than me. We were both black and blue. I have always greatly regret killing the hedgehog.

84. I recall watching an occasion when Mr ^{KXJ} [REDACTED] battered [REDACTED]. He punched, banging his head of the walls, and kicked him. It was when we had been put into the special punishment unit that Mr ^{KXJ} [REDACTED] was in charge of. We must have been approx. fourteen.
85. On one occasion I was stood outside the main entrance to the school, the entrance external walls were made of stone, I wasn't aware that Mr ^{KXJ} [REDACTED] was there, he deliberately physically abuse me by pushing into me with the full weight of his body, and using a bent outstretch arm to knock me off balance and hitting my head into the corner stone column of the school entrance. My head was split open and bleeding badly but I was not offered any medical help from a doctor or other medical staff. I had to deal with it myself, when the damage needed stitches. I was still in the juniors. I still have that scar on my head. None of the other boys ever questioned what was happening for fear that they would get on Mr ^{KXJ} [REDACTED]'s radar and would be next to be beaten.
86. You would be lined up by a member of staff who would be told to inspect your underpants for "skid marks". If you had any soiling then you would have to wash your own underpants. Mr ^{KXJ} [REDACTED]'s wife ran the laundry and she didn't want to have to wash dirty underpants.
87. I just stopped eating while I was at the school. There was a man at the school whose name I have forgotten. He was working at the school and one day he took [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and myself back to his house. While we were there I needed to go to the toilet. The man told me that I couldn't go to his bathroom. The man eventually agreed to letting me go use the toilet in the bathroom, and there was a lot of dirty clothing which entirely covered the bathroom floor.
88. When I got back to the school, I told one of the other boys about the state of the bathroom. The man must have got wind of this because he came to my bedroom and got me up out of bed, took me into the hall, he then quizzed me about it, and I didn't lie to him. He then deliberately dropped a metal tin of paint on my left foot

which caused it to burst open, this has left a scar. It was bleeding everywhere but he wouldn't let me get any treatment, and I went to bed with it untreated and bleeding. All I can remember about the man is that he used to be some sort of caretaker or gamekeeper on a large estate and he used to live in a cottage on that estate. I think that the purpose of this trip was to try to get me to eat as his wife cooked a meal for us.

89. Miss KXP from day one at the school felt it was part of her duties to come into the shower room and wash between the crack of our arses and private parts. We were not young children anymore, this started from my first day I attended the school and didn't stop until she left, and we didn't need her to do that. That was the only abuse I suffered from that woman. She did it to all the junior boys.
90. I was also abused by the son of a member of staff, the son was also a carer at the school and called Mr PCQ he grabbed me from the line by the hair lifting me off the ground and threw me about banging my head against the walls in the corner, where I had to remain. I was so frightened about what was happening that I wet myself. The reason Mr PCQ assaulted me was because, one of the boys was constantly prodding me in the back so I turned around and head butted him bursting his nose. I have to say that I was not proud of doing that. Mr PCQ worked the night shifts looking after us and I think he took it upon himself to punish me. I was in the juniors when this happened and would be under fourteen.
91. The local authority, the HSO-SPO and all the staff working at the school had a duty of care to ensure all pupils safety, health and wellbeing, and all the above had a duty of care. with the exception of the carers to ensure all pupils were educated. All these duties of care were breached at Monken Hadley/Woodland school.

Reporting of abuse at Monken Hadley/Woodland School

92. Shortly after the HSO-SPO arrived at Monken Hadley/Woodland school two of the other boys and along with myself told them about the

abuse we were suffering at the hands of Mr KXJ and Miss KXP. They listened to what we said and a couple of weeks later Mr KXJ had been promoted and had bought a new car. It gave him carte blanche to do what he wanted to us. It sent a clear signal to us not to complain because he was untouchable. The HSO-SPO did nothing to remedy our complaints. The HSO-SPO made a conscious choice, not to reprimand staff members for abusing children, not to stop the abuse and not to report it to the authorities. The HSO-SPO deemed their financial position more important than the safety and wellbeing of the children at the school under their care.

93. Mr KXJ took [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and me and put us into his new car. He told us that he had been promoted. He told us in no uncertain terms that we were not to make any more complaints about him or it would be worse for us.
94. Mr KXJ continued his relationship with the young girl. I suspect that it was other staff members that reported it to Mr and Mrs HSO-SPO, this was a long time after we had made the complaint to Mr and Mrs HSO-SPO. The upshot was that Mr KXJ left the school, but there was no report to the police or other authorities, he was just allowed to leave. I think I was about fifteen when he left, and only when he had left the School did the abuse stop. The last time I recall seeing Mr KXJ was after he had left, at the town fete where all the pupils just ignored him.
95. I also reported the inappropriate behaviour of Miss KXP when she came into the showers and washed our private areas. Mr and Mrs HSO-SPO did nothing about that either and that behaviour continued, until Miss KXP left the School.

Leaving Monken Hadley/Woodland School

96. I left Monken Hadley then named Woodland School, when I turned sixteen in [REDACTED] 1986. Prior to leaving school I was still working with the cleaners but I recall that when the Inspectors came I had to go back into the classroom. I was known as a [REDACTED] leaver as I had reached the age when I could leave.

Life after being at Monken Hadley/Woodland School.

97. I went home and stayed with my parents in Livingston. I attended a Youth Training Scheme in joinery. I was on the course for over a year. I wasn't long finished with the scheme when I was in a motor bike accident. I had numerous operations and have been unable to work since then. I was eighteen when I had the accident. I met my wife and she was happy to work for us both and did not want me to work but wanted me to stay at home.
98. I was diagnosed as being diabetic in 2013. In December 2018 I had a second hip replacement and I have not been outside my house since then due to the operation and the Covid lockdown started.

Impact

99. My education has suffered badly and I have missed out on a proper education, I was only taught basic reading, writing and maths, not even grammar or percentages, and no science, geography, history or languages, etc. I have been badly affected mentally, emotionally and psychologically as a result of my time at Monken Hadley /Woodlands School. I was always told that I was a bright scholar but I was unable to concentrate, focus and pay attention to what I was being told.
100. I didn't realise that I had difficulty concentrating until I was an adult and my wife pointed this out to me and I shut down and blank things out that I'm being told, I retreat to a world of my own. I have always felt that I have been on my own and have had no one to turn to for help or guidance either at home or at school, and to this day I don't have trust in people.

101. After my motor bike accident 1988 I had a number of operations. To this day I still suffer the effects of the physical, mental and emotional abuse I suffered while at Monken Hadley/Woodland School.
102. I have only ever had one relationship in my life and that is with my wife. The school definitely affected me. I lived in fear everyday I was at School and the only time I could relax was when Mr [KXJ] was off for the day but to ensure that he kept me traumatised he sometimes came in School on his days off, when he would make a point of find me.
103. One of the main things that has traumatised me and affected me during my life has been what happened to [REDACTED]. He was a friend of mine and he was only fourteen when he died. I had no experience of death and he was the first person I knew who died. I have never sought any counselling to deal with my abuse at Monken Hadley/Woodland School or the death of [REDACTED], nor was any counselling offered while we attended the school. It is only now that I realise why we weren't offered or given medical or counselling services while at this school, if we had this would have opened the negligence, and the abuse suffered by the pupils at the hands of the staff and the [HSO-SPO] at Monken Hadley/Woodland School. I was at the school from the age of approx. 10 and I am now 51 years old and I am still dealing with what happened to me and others at the school and the after effects of this. I have therefore, be given any more than three life sentences.
104. My childhood was ruined and I am sure more abuse took place than I have recalled in this statement, but due to the mental, physical and emotional abuse I suffered I have blanked this out of my memory. I never spoke to my family about my time at Monken Hadley/Woodland School and my siblings never discussed their time in care with me. I have never met my sister [REDACTED]. My parent's attitude was that we should be seen and not heard so I was never able to discuss Monken Hadley/Woodland school with them either. I was brought up in the midst of violence every day of my childhood. It happened at home and in school.

105. I did go back to Monken Hadley/Woodland School after I had left, it was when the school was having the annual fete. The real reason for going back was to see Beth Marr who I was very fond of, so much so that I took my niece to see her. My parents took me with my niece, they returned after the fete. My uncle worked on the ferries in Stranraer and he picked me up on the Sunday on his way home. I stayed for two nights at the school. The school burned down in 2006 and I did visit the school to try and see Mr and Mrs HSO-SPO but they had moved house and I didn't manage to see them.

Reporting of Abuse

106. I did contact a lawyer in approx. 2005 to see if I could get a case made against Mr KXJ, the Local Authority and Mr & Mrs HSO-SPO, and if I was entitled to any compensation. I did see on the internet that KXJ had been charged with some offences. The lawyer told me, that my circumstances were now time barred and I wouldn't be able to raise a case. I think that Mr KXJ was jailed in 2003 for three years. I was told by the solicitor that during the police investigation into Mr KXJ my name was mentioned to the police as me being a victim of his abuse, but the police deliberately failed to contact me, I was living in England at that time and I was on the electoral role and could have been found quite easily.
107. I never reported the matter to the Police after being told that my case was time barred. I often thought about taking a case against the school but I never did anything about it.

Records

108. I think that my solicitor was going to obtain all my records. He did send me a pile of papers which I kept but never read, I am not a good reader and I can have difficulty taking things in and focusing and my mind just wanders and I don't even know I'm doing it, particularly on upsetting facts and other things, therefore, I didn't see any

point in upsetting myself, all this is due to the abuse I suffered while in care. I no longer have those papers.

Lessons to be learned

109. I wish that I had spoken to the police when [REDACTED] died and informed them of all the circumstances involved in his death. I should have gone to the police to report the abuse and taken some of the other children with me instead of speaking to Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] HSO-SPO. There was no point in speaking to my father as he would have gone to the school and beaten [REDACTED] KXJ to a pulp. My father was a very violent man and it may have helped him but it would not help me. I don't know if the police would have believed us if we had reported the abuse, and if they had not taken definitive action, then the abuse would have got worse. When [REDACTED] KXJ left the school everything improved and it was much easier being there without the threat of violence daily.

Hopes for the Inquiry

110. I would hope that what people who were in the care system are saying is listened to. I hope that local authority inspectors start to speak to the children in the schools and listen to what they say. It does not seem good value to pay large sums of money for children to be abused.
111. 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

[REDACTED] KWJ

Dated.....06.07.21.....

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