

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

PQM [REDACTED]

Support person present: Yes.

1. My name is PQM [REDACTED] and my date of birth is [REDACTED], 1967. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Background

2. I am the second oldest of five children. My older brother is called [REDACTED] and my three younger siblings are [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. When I was born my dad was a farm worker and as such we moved around Scotland during my first few years.
3. I was born in Kirkcaldy. I moved back there when I was nine. Prior to returning to Kirkcaldy, my family were in Larbert, Biggar, Duns, Elie and back to Biggar. I initially went to Valley Primary School in Kirkcaldy because when we moved back, we stayed with my grandparents before we got our house. We moved to Chapel Village and I went to Torbain Primary School, thereafter Kirkcaldy High School. I had major problems at Kirkcaldy High.

Life before going into care

4. Before I left primary school the electricity got turned off at our house as both my mum and dad were drinkers. My dad worked but he'd come home at night, walk in the front door and out the back door. We had a hotel about [REDACTED] from the back door, so he went out into the bar there. My mum basically lived in the pub. The

only time we saw them was literally if we went in to the pub. All my brothers and sisters had stints staying with our grandparents. For some reason I didn't.

5. Our electricity was cut off when I was nine years old and this lasted until I was fifteen. The house was all electric, even the central heating. The house was a tip and there was no hot water. We cooked on a gas burner and we had a paraffin heater for heating the house in the winter. So, when I went to high school I had major problems with some of the teachers, because I didn't have any means to wash.
6. Before going to high school I had to work through the summer holidays to buy myself a new pair of shoes to wear. That's what I did. I worked in the summer. At Christmas I cleared paths, I did carol singing, anything to make a few pounds.
7. There was no social work involvement at that time. They didn't get involved until I ran away. I'd been jumping school for a good while because the art teacher, Mr [REDACTED], used to beat me up all the time. He punched holes out of me and threw me in a cupboard. Every period I had with him it was always the same. I never understood why he didn't like me, I suppose I was maybe a bit disruptive.
8. A prime example of his treatment towards me was one day we were meant to be doing something without using a ruler. I used a ruler to draw a straight line and he nearly took my finger off with it. He caught me on the nail and my nail came clean off, then he locked me in a cupboard and left me there. I had a mate that would come in at dinner-time and let me out. It was the only way I got out. As soon as that happened I walked straight out of school and away.
9. After a while I just stopped going to school. We then got a letter telling my mum she had to take me. So she took me in and I had a prefect take me from class to class. The first class I went to was maths and the teacher said to me, "You're not meant to be here, you're meant to be remedial". So I walked out of school and went home. I beat my mum for going home.

10. I packed bags and hitched my way down to Leeds. I was actually in Leeds for four months when I was fourteen years old. I used my older brother's National Insurance number and his date of birth and got a job and a flat.
11. After a while I knew the police were asking questions, so I thought I'd head back to Kirkcaldy. This is when the social work got involved. When I returned I phoned and said if you want me to go home, move me from that school. I told them I'd had enough and didn't want to go there anymore and that's how I ended up at Linwood.
12. Miss Powers springs to mind as the name of my social worker, but I might be wrong. As I said it was me that got in touch with the social work. They told me to come down to their office and I went down there. At that time it was in Nicol Street, Kirkcaldy.
13. I also told my mum I wasn't going back to Kirkcaldy High School. I did have to go for another three months [REDACTED], otherwise I was told they wouldn't move me. However I didn't have to go to art, I just sat in another class somewhere else. I didn't have to spend it with Mr [REDACTED] anymore, so the school must have been aware of it. I didn't have to wear a school uniform over this period. Around this time the electricity was put back on in my house. They suddenly fitted a meter. I don't know why they hadn't done this years before.
14. I told the social work about Mr [REDACTED] but nothing came of it. As far as I'm aware he was still there eight or nine years later when my younger brother was going to Kirkcaldy High.
15. About [REDACTED] that year, I attended a children's panel. I sat in the room. There were three people behind the table, my social worker was there and my mum. I was asked if I wanted to visit Linwood Hall residential school by the social work, which I agreed to.

Linwood Hall residential school, Leven, Fife

16. I didn't know Linwood Hall. I had never heard of the place until it was mentioned by the social work. I went up for a visit about the middle of [REDACTED] and it looked fine, great even. Clean rooms and fed daily. I was looking forward to going. SNR [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED] Mr LUT [REDACTED] showed me around.
17. It was a castle, basically a big manor house with a big tower on the front of it. There was a large common hall downstairs at the front and a dining hall at the back. There was a long corridor with five dorms, this was where the boys slept, and a snooker table. Upstairs there were two girls' dormitories. There was a new part of the school built out the back, which was portacabins joined together.
18. There were around thirty children there in total. About twenty boys and ten girls. The youngest was eleven or twelve, the oldest was sixteen. I was fourteen and a half.
19. The youngest were in the dorm furthest away, the oldest were nearest to the doors. There was a set of swing doors and in between the swing doors were the house-parents' rooms, one at each side. There were two sets of house-parents, one set had one room and the other set had the other room. I got moved into the middle dorm, the third one up. There were four beds to a dorm.

Routine at Linwood Hall

Mornings and bedtime

20. During the week you got wakened up at eight o'clock and had your breakfast. Classes were at nine o'clock. Lunch was about twelve thirty, you had half an hour after that to play, maybe get a game of pool. You then went back to classes until three o'clock. After this you could muck about, go swimming, that kind of thing. Dinner was at five o'clock. After dinner you could go to local clubs or go for a walk as long as you were in for nine o'clock. You could be out from six to nine p.m.

21. Supper was at nine o'clock then you got ready for bed about nine thirty. Lights went out at ten o'clock. You could have a shower first thing in the morning or last thing at night. You mixed with the girls until nine thirty then the girls went up to their dorms. I got on fine with the other occupants.
22. After ten o'clock there was only one house-parent on but everybody was meant to be in bed anyway. The house-parent would be in his room but every now and then you would hear them in the corridor.
23. Most people would just get on with things. You'd get up in the morning, go to school, have your dinner, go back to school, finish, have your tea, play pool then you'd get out the door for the night. You didn't have to do any chores.

Staff

24. SNR [REDACTED] Mr LUT [REDACTED] was a big, burly man. An ex-sergeant in [REDACTED]. He was rough but fair. He had a cross drawn on the wall in his office and he said if you annoyed him he would bounce you off it. But I never saw him doing it to anyone. The threat was enough. He told me to go and see him if I felt like running away and he would give me bus fares so that he would know where I was, or he would give me a run home. He just didn't want you to walk out the gates.
25. If you had a problem with somebody you could go to Mr LUT [REDACTED] get the boxing gloves on and go up to the recreation room and box for ten minutes. It always ended in a draw but it was his way of getting rid of the tension. Instead of taking somebody out the back and getting into trouble, you could put the boxing gloves on and batter the hell out of each other for ten minutes.
26. The two sets of house-parents worked in shifts. They would do 24 hours but only one of them would stay the night. The other would go home after ten o'clock. It was on a rota, they stayed the night every four or five days. The house-parents were KZP [REDACTED] and KNF [REDACTED] who were easy-going. They let you away with more. The other set were

David Murphy and **KNH** who were a bit stricter. They were more serious and got you swimming and cycling. They were right into fitness. **KZP** and **KNF** were a good laugh, you played killer ball with them. They would take us up the Falkland hills with torches and play 'torchy'. Thirty kids bouncing about a hill in the darkness with torches. I can't remember any of their surnames except David Murphy.

Clothing and hygiene

27. When I went to Linwood the social work got me new clothes and shoes. There was hot water and you could have a shower every day.
28. I can't recall any problem with people bed-wetting. The laundry room was near the dorms. Everybody had a basket. We all had different colours, everybody had a different colour of label. Basically you had a shirt and there were different patterns, you knew your pattern so you knew your clothes. The auxiliary staff knew too. You would put your clothes in the laundry basket and two days later they were washed and ironed and lying on your bed.

Leisure time

29. You stayed Monday to Friday and went home at weekends. You could stay every second weekend if you wanted to and I did this a lot. If you stayed you'd get taken to the football or taken swimming every night. You went out cycling, I started doing cross country again. It was great, couldn't have been a better place as far as I was concerned. From going from a life of pure hell to luxury. You got taken to the football, up to Dundee and you got taken carting. I did my Duke of Edinburgh awards while I was there: bronze, silver and gold. You always had something to do.
30. There was a television room, a pool table and chess. We had a shooting-range in the attic, where you shot air weapons. It was the full length of the attic. This was supervised by a member of staff, you couldn't go on your own. We had a Scalextric track and a really big train set. There was a local youth club. I think it was a

Wednesday when they had a disco. I'd be down there every week. There was a cinema which was just down the road and round the corner.

Food

31. There were two good chefs and the food was good. We all ate together in rows at two long tables.

School

32. School was ok. There were five children to a class. The classes were upstairs. There were four teachers - one was Mrs [REDACTED] SNR [REDACTED]'s wife. The lessons were basic. There was no chance of going for O' grades or that sort of thing. English, maths, a bit of science, pottery, that kind of thing. It was completely different from Kirkcaldy High School, where everything was structured. You had fun every day. There wasn't a detailed structure. They taught you how to count, read and spell but nothing spectacular.
33. I actually taught the technical drawing teacher how to do technical drawing. At Kirkcaldy High I was good at it and when I went to Linwood it was KNH the house-parent who taught technical drawing. He did something in class and I said that's wrong and I showed him what I meant. He took it away and showed someone. After that I actually showed him what to do.

Pocket money

34. I got pocket money every week at Linwood. I'd never had pocket money in my life. I'd had to work for everything up until then. They had a bank at the school. The head house-parent, I can't remember his name, controlled the bank. It was a strong box in his office. He kept a book to organise how much money you had saved. We got £13 per week pocket money and I'd buy a bottle of juice and couple of packets of sweets during the week. Everything else was laid on. I did smoke then but at that time it was 35 pence for a packet of cigarettes. I left Linwood with about £400.

Visits/inspections

35. My social worker would come every two months and take me shopping for clothes or whatever I needed. All I can remember doing with her was shopping. That's the only time I'd see her. She had a flat downstairs from where the mum and dad of my mate in the home stayed.
36. I only saw my parents when I went home. My dad became a long distance lorry driver but it was the same routine at home. He'd get up on the Monday morning and he'd be away, my mum would go with him. You wouldn't see them until the Tuesday night, but it would be in the front door and out the back to the pub. They'd get up on the Wednesday morning and go. Wednesday was local, Glasgow I think. They'd come back that night, in the front door and out the back door. On Thursday morning he'd get up and be away overnight again and you wouldn't see him until Friday. Again, he would come in the front door and out the back door. You wouldn't see either of them all weekend.
37. They would stay in the bar until midnight when it closed. They would then go through to the lounge until four or five in the morning. They'd come home, go to bed and get up in the morning ready for opening time.
38. My older brother stayed with my grandparents until he was sixteen, until he left school, then he moved back.

Abuse at Linwood

39. I did enjoy my time at Linwood but it eventually turned a bit sour. I went there in the [REDACTED] and in the summer David Murphy, one of the house-parents, asked me if I wanted to stay at his and go sailing with him. He asked my mum and she said yes, but she wouldn't notice if I was there or not.

40. David Murphy was in his late fifties, early sixties. He was a fitness fanatic. He would take me cycling, cross-country running and swimming. It was all to do with sport with David.
41. He used to give me massages last thing at night. He said that it would loosen my muscles. That's all it was right up until the summer holidays. It's hard to explain, it put me at ease. Now I can see why he did it, but then somebody was spending time with me. Taking me cross-country running and swimming. I started doing a lot of running with him.
42. He asked me to go sailing with him. He turned, like flicking a coin. One day he was this nice older gentleman that would look out for you then he was this evil, sadistic man. He wouldn't punch you or things like that..
43. During that summer holiday I went to stay in his caravan. I got a bus from Kirkcaldy to St Monan's and he met me there. We went to his house, picked up the bikes and cycled from his house up the back roads of St Monan's. We went to a farm and there was a caravan there. That's where I was staying. We went to St Monan's harbour. He had a little yacht and we took this out. I started getting taught how to use the rudder and everything. That was basically the first day. We went back to the caravan and had our tea. It was boiled potatoes, no salt, chopped ham and pork and beans.
44. I went to bed that first night and the next thing I knew he was on top of me, trousers down. Bang, that was it. The abuse was full penetration. It only happened the once. I never got caught out again.
45. The next morning I asked him to take me home. He initially said no but eventually he did. All the way home, there were little niggles in the car like, "Remember, nobody will believe you", and "I can have you any time at school. It would just take two seconds. I'd break your neck". The last thing he said before I got out of his car was, "Remember, not a word", then away he went.

46. After my return to Linwood Hall, I avoided being caught in a situation at the school, but once every four nights he was there by himself. I'd be lying in my bed and hear him creeping up the hall. He'd be standing next to me and whisper, "I can still get you" or "I can have you anytime I like" and away he'd go. He knew he had this control. I constantly lay there awake, worrying whether he was coming back. But he never, ever did anything at the school. I made sure I was always with friends at all times when Murphy would come in. I had good roommates, good friends. I stayed at my friend [REDACTED]'s house in Dunfermline and occasionally with [REDACTED] at weekends.
47. He always seemed to know when my roommates were sleeping. He never came in when they were awake. Sometimes I'd be sleeping and I'd be wakened by a shake and he would whisper, "I can still come in anytime", and away he'd go. It was just constant mental abuse after that.
48. I didn't hear anything about him by anyone else. After this I never got sick at Linwood, because if you were sick you would be left by yourself in the dorms. So after that, even if I felt bad I wouldn't say because that's where I could be caught out.
49. I gave up cross-country after the summer holiday and avoided being alone with him. It all changed. I gave up cycling. Anything he did I gave up just to avoid him. I started going out more at night to avoid him. Sometimes I couldn't, for instance if we all went swimming, but I wouldn't get caught myself in the changing rooms. I started going camping with [KZP] and [KNF] and did the Duke of Edinburgh awards. So I moved from one house-parent to another.
50. Once a week he would waken me up and he would say, "I'm still here. It would only take a second to break your neck". The last year was mental torture. It was constant. None of the other members of staff were a problem. Only him.

Life after being in care

51. I left Linwood Hall when I was sixteen in [REDACTED] 1983. I went back to my mum's house, however it was the same routine, they were in the front door and out the back door. I looked after my younger brother and sisters. None of my siblings were ever in care and they all stayed at my grandparents at some point.
52. I fell out with my dad and left. I initially stayed in a big residential caravan, then a bed and breakfast. I thereafter stayed in a private flat, then a council flat. I was there when I first met my wife. I got married in 1989 when I was 22 years old. I have four boys to my marriage. My sons are sixteen, twenty, twenty-four and twenty-six years old. They all stay in Stenhousemuir. I am now separated.

Reporting of abuse at Linwood

53. I didn't tell anybody about what happened to me. I told my mum when it was going to court and she asked why I hadn't told her before. I asked her when I was meant to tell her. She was always in the pub with her pals. I told her I never saw her apart from at the end of the [REDACTED] bar.
54. I didn't tell the social work. I was worried. David Murphy said that nobody would believe me and he could have me anytime he wanted. He terrified me for the last year I was there. I would avoid being with him. The last year there I made sure I was in a group.
55. The first time I told anyone of my abuse was in 1998. I was called by the police and asked if anything had happened to me. I initially said I hadn't been abused. The next month I had a nervous breakdown and ended up in ward 13 in Falkirk Hospital. I had a good drug worker, I can't remember her name, who was there when I gave the police a statement. I also gave a statement to the procurator fiscal.

56. Murphy pled guilty the day before I was due to give evidence. He was tried in the High Court in Perth but he was sentenced in Glasgow. He pled guilty to every charge. After half a dozen people gave evidence he changed his plea and pled guilty to everything.
57. I was happy with this but angry because I discovered that he was moved from one home, suspended for six months on full pay then moved to Linwood, where he was able to abuse another 15-20 people.

Impact

58. The main impact of the abuse is that I have had a daily heroin habit for the last 21 years. This started in 1995 or 1996. Before that I had smoked cannabis since I was fifteen. I have nightmares all the time. I still take heroin every day. It helps because when I take it I don't dream.
59. I don't go to see my GP. It takes seven weeks to get an appointment. Once or twice I've tried methadone but I hated it. I've tried a blocker, it's not so much that I hated taking that, it was having to go to a chemist day-in day-out. When you go to the chemist to get it you meet people you should try to avoid. I have six month's supply of blocker in my house. I don't need to take it at this stage. It would make me ill if I did. The visits to the chemist were the biggest problem. I've been using dihydrocodeine the last month and a half. It's finding someone willing to sell a prescription.
60. I've worked most of my life. I made it to site foreman and had 60 men under me on one job. I had all my machine tickets at one point, I could drive big 360's.
61. I got £10,000 compensation after the trial. When I first got in touch with Open Secret they advised me to go and get a lawyer. It was in 2000 that I got the compensation. David Murphy had died before I got it.

62. I didn't ever get an apology. I would really like to know the person who suspended him on full pay for six months then put him to another home. That bit really niggles.
63. I first got involved with Open Secret in 1989. My drug worker put me in touch with them. You never get a chance to forget the abuse. There is Jimmy Savile or one story or another. One and half to two years ago I got back in touch with Open Secret as I was going through a hard time and I've been off and on with them ever since. I don't have a drug worker just now. I'm doing better without one.
64. I've had one appointment with a counsellor. I met him last week, so it's early days. My last counsellor, Tracy, was great but there was insufficient funding to keep it going. It stopped eight or nine months ago. I thought I was really moving forward with Tracy, coming on leaps and bounds. One minute she was there then funding was taken away.

Records

65. I've had no contact with Fife Council. I've had no access to my records.

Lessons to Learn

66. The lessons to be learned are obviously that things like this never happen again. Tighten things up. It's all that seems to happen. Any time you see the news that's all you hear. Somebody must see something. What would help me more than anything is answers from the Scottish Government.
67. 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.

PQM

Signed...

Dated 21-6-2017