

# Statement Addendum

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**Client Name:** Colin Donnelly  
**Date of Birth:** 09/04/1974  
**Care Setting:** eglinton childrens home  
**Dates:** 1987  
**Persons Involved:**

## Full Statement

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When I arrived AT 6 Cleveden Gardens, Kelvindale, Glasgow, G12 0PT I was scared, nervous, and deeply upset. I remember feeling completely overwhelmed, unsure of where I was or what was going to happen to me. Over time, I did begin to settle in slightly, but that initial fear never truly left me. I was placed into a dorm on my own, and at the time I was actually happy about that because it felt safer and quieter for me, and I thought I might be able to cope better being alone.

However, after about a month, everything changed, and my world turned completely upside down. I began to be secluded in my room and was locked away for long periods of time. This isolation had a serious effect on my mental health. I felt cut off from everything and everyone, and I had no way of understanding why this was happening to me. Very quickly, things escalated and became extremely physical. I was being beaten up on a daily basis and constantly bullied by the older children. This was not occasional—it was relentless and continuous. What made it even worse was that the staff allowed this to happen and, at times, seemed to find it entertaining.

There were occasions when staff themselves would get involved and physically assault me, including slapping me. Instead of protecting me, they sided with the bullies, who were clearly their favourites. Whenever situations escalated, rather than helping me, staff would restrain me. These restraints were extremely painful and distressing. I remember being held down, with staff sitting on me and bending my arms back while I was completely helpless. At the same time, other children would stand around laughing at me, which was humiliating and degrading. These experiences have stayed with me and continue to affect me deeply.

My contact with my family was completely stopped for a year. I tried to get in touch and reach out for help, but I was refused access. I felt abandoned and trapped, with no way of asking for help or escaping what I was going through. That period of isolation from my family had a lasting emotional impact on me, as I felt completely alone and unsupported.

Although food was provided, it was often cold and stale, which made me feel even more neglected and uncared for. I was also deprived of having any enjoyment or normal childhood experiences. Most of the time, I was isolated and excluded from activities. This had a severe impact on my development, leading to social anxiety and ongoing mental health struggles. I felt mentally abused and emotionally broken, and these

experiences have had long-term effects on my ability to function socially.

I was forced to wear clothing that I felt uncomfortable in, and I had no say or control over this. I was regularly excluded from trips and activities that other children were allowed to take part in. I was singled out, and it was made very clear to everyone that I was being treated differently because of my mental health. This made me feel ashamed, targeted, and even more isolated. The bullying, combined with the physical and emotional abuse, had a devastating impact on me.

During this time, I was also made to attend a school throughout the week where I experienced further abuse. The teachers there would beat me and bully me, using their authority and size to intimidate and harm me. Everywhere I went, I was bullied because of my mental health. This created a constant cycle of fear, pain, and distress. I was living in a state of ongoing mental and physical suffering, and no one ever stepped in to help me in any way.

I was later taken to a boarding school in Hillside Boarding School in Fyfffe, which marked another extremely difficult and traumatic period in my life. I had to attend this school every week and even throughout the summer holidays. I never had a normal childhood. I was always treated differently, singled out, secluded, and bullied. Even within my own family, I felt different. My mum treated my siblings differently from me, and I experienced the same unequal treatment in care.

At school, I was never included in trips or given the opportunity to make friends. I was constantly bullied and made fun of, and once again, staff allowed this to happen. I felt invisible, as though no one cared about me or my wellbeing. That sense of being unwanted and unsupported has stayed with me throughout my life.

Eventually, I reached an age where I moved into independent living, but even then, I received no support. I had been so used to being alone that I continued to live as a loner. No one ever helped me adjust or cope with life on my own. I have felt alone and, at times, terrorised for most of my life. The impact of everything I went through has been overwhelming and long-lasting.

As a result of these experiences, I turned to alcohol as a way to cope and block out the pain of my childhood. Even now, I still struggle and sometimes drink because I find it difficult to cope with the memories and the lasting effects of what happened to me. I suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, and depression. These conditions affect me daily and make it difficult to live a normal life.

I struggle to build relationships and to trust people. I find everyday activities challenging, and I often feel overwhelmed. I have spent most of my life feeling alone, and I believe this is directly caused by the way I was treated. It has had a devastating impact on my life and continues to affect me to this day.

I also struggle to communicate and to express my emotions. The main emotion I have become familiar with is anger, and although I try my best to control it, it is something I continue to battle with. The experiences I went through as a child have shaped who I am today, and they have had a profound and lasting impact on my mental health, my relationships, and my overall quality of life.