

# Statement Addendum

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**Client Name:** Thomas Wallace  
**Date of Birth:** 22/05/1959  
**Care Setting:** kirkland park care home Scotland  
**Dates:** 1974  
**Persons Involved:**

## Full Statement

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I was 15 years old at the time, and I had no understanding of what was happening to me. I was taken to a Children's Panel and, without any proper explanation or preparation, I was removed from everything I knew and taken straight from there to Kirkland Park. This was the point where my life changed forever.

On arrival, I was immediately overwhelmed by what I saw. Children were running around screaming, fighting, and behaving in a way that felt completely chaotic and out of control. It felt like a feral environment. The staff showed no interest in me or the other children. I arrived at night time, frightened, confused, and hungry, yet I was not offered any food or comfort. I was simply thrown into a dormitory, the door was locked behind me, and that was it. I was left there alone, feeling extremely emotional, scared, and unsure. From my very first night, I did not feel safe.

I quickly noticed that the other children were terrified of the staff. They would not speak up or defend themselves in any way. The staff would scream at us constantly, calling us names and degrading us. They treated us horribly and spoke to us as if we were worthless. Within a few days, the abuse became physical. Staff members would slap me, kick me, punch me, and throw me against walls. It often felt like this was done for their own entertainment. They would drag me out of class in front of other children and beat me. I witnessed the same treatment being inflicted on others, which only increased my fear and sense of helplessness.

There was one particular child who was known to be aggressive and a bully. The staff allowed him to effectively control the dormitory. They encouraged or permitted him to assault us, and he would beat and torment us as if acting on their behalf. He was allowed to intimidate us and enforce control through fear. If any of us reacted or tried to defend ourselves, the staff would restrain us.

The restraints used were extremely painful and, in my view, excessive. Staff would sit on us, pin us down, and bend our arms and knees back behind our bodies, causing intense pain that lasted for days afterwards. These experiences left me physically injured and emotionally traumatised.

As I began to develop facial hair, I was forced to shave every day before being allowed to eat. If I refused or was unable to do so, I would be denied food. I was made to dry shave using cold water, which caused severe rashes, cuts, and ongoing pain to my skin. My face was often left red raw, sore, and scaly. This was deeply

humiliating, as it was done in front of other children, deliberately singling me out and causing embarrassment and distress.

Contact with my family was extremely limited. I was only allowed one visit, and after that, no further meaningful contact was facilitated. The staff would mock and humiliate me for not having family coming to see me. This caused me deep emotional pain and reinforced feelings of abandonment and worthlessness. It had a severe impact on my mental health, as well as my physical and emotional wellbeing. I felt completely isolated, with no support and no one to turn to.

One of the most traumatic incidents I experienced occurred at night. A staff member, who I remember being called Sandy and who I believe was from Prestwick, woke us during the night. He had been smoking a pipe. He forced us to go and watch a film while everyone else was asleep. During this time, he sexually assaulted me. He put his hands down my pants and forced me to sit there silently while he attempted to touch me. I was terrified and felt completely powerless.

I managed to run away and woke another young boy, telling him what had happened and asking for help. However, this same staff member came into the dormitory, took the other boy away, and locked the door behind him. The following day, I was beaten for speaking up about what had happened. At that moment, I knew I was not safe there.

This experience had a devastating and lasting impact on me. From that point onwards, my mental health deteriorated significantly. I have never felt the same since. The trauma I experienced in Kirkland Park has stayed with me for life. I suffer from severe post-traumatic stress, anxiety, and depression as a direct result of the abuse I endured.

During my time there, I was often secluded, living in constant fear and anxiety. I felt trapped, with no one to confide in and no way to escape. I had nobody to cry out to for help. These experiences have affected every aspect of my life, including my ability to trust others, form relationships, and feel safe in the world. Even now, I continue to struggle daily with the emotional and psychological consequences of what I went through.