

Statement Addendum

Client Name: Michael Kemp
Date of Birth: 06/11/1986
Care Setting: Ballycon raine
Dates: 1996
Persons Involved:

Full Statement

Then I was moved to what I can only describe as the worst place of my life. By this point I was already very vulnerable and weak, and instead of being protected, I was subjected to even more severe abuse. The staff there were horrible and extremely nasty. They would constantly call me names, shout at me, slap me, drag me around, and treat me with no care or respect. I lived in constant fear of them, never knowing when the next incident would happen.

They stopped all visits with my family, which made me feel completely cut off and abandoned. Losing that connection was devastating for me. At the same time, my education completely broke down. I wasn't properly supported or taught, and I began to fall behind. I felt stupid and ashamed because I was struggling so much, and no one helped me. I was also being bullied by other children, and again, there was no support or protection. This has had a lasting impact on me to this day, as I still struggle with reading and writing because of the lack of education and support during that time.

The abuse from staff was severe and frequent. They would drag us through the corridors, pull us into offices, and physically assault me—punching and kicking me until I was in severe pain. They would bend my arms and legs back in ways that caused intense pain, sometimes restraining me in positions designed to hurt me. I remember being lifted or held in painful ways that made me feel completely helpless. The physical abuse was relentless, and I came to expect it as part of daily life.

The older children in the home were also very aggressive and would bully me regularly. If I tried to stand up for myself, the staff would deliberately send someone bigger or stronger to beat me up. It felt like I was being set up to be hurt, with no way to escape it.

I was allowed to smoke while I was there, even though I was a child. The staff would use cigarettes as a way to control and manipulate me. They would deprive me of them as punishment or use them to bribe me, and they would also use them to create conflict between me and other children. This often led to other children snapping, robbing me, or attacking me. The staff seemed to get entertainment from causing these situations and watching the chaos and violence that followed.

We were often locked away and secluded in our rooms for long periods of time, sometimes for most of the day. Isolation became a normal part of my life, and it had a serious impact on my mental health. As

punishment, staff would drag us to the showers, treating it as another form of control and humiliation rather than care.

I was also beaten with objects such as keys and key rings, or anything weighted that they had in their hands. The pain was intense and would make me scream, but it didn't stop them. These incidents left both physical injuries and deep emotional scars.

Family contact was extremely limited. On the rare occasions I was allowed a supervised visit, I felt unable to ask for help because I was terrified of what would happen to me afterwards if I spoke out. I believed things would only get worse, so I stayed silent and endured it.

The psychological abuse was just as damaging. The staff would constantly call me names, tell me I was unwanted, and make me feel worthless and invisible. I was often left alone, crying in my room, locked away and completely isolated. I felt forgotten and abandoned, with no sense of safety or belonging.

The impact of all of this has stayed with me throughout my life. I now suffer from anxiety, depression, and symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. I find it very difficult to build relationships or trust people. I struggle to control my emotions and often feel on edge or overwhelmed. The experiences I went through have affected every part of my life, from my mental health to my ability to function day to day. It has shaped how I see myself and others, and the effects are something I continue to live with every day.