

Statement Addendum

Client Name: Kevin Hill
Date of Birth: 10/06/1971
Care Setting: Longrigend Prison - Ayr
Dates: 1986
Persons Involved:

Full Statement

Firstly, I was taken from my parents at a young age due to shoplifting. At that time, I had no explanation or understanding of what was going on. I was just a child, confused, frightened, and completely unaware of what was happening to me or why. There was no support, no guidance, and no one took the time to explain anything in a way I could understand. I was simply removed from my family and everything familiar to me.

I was then placed into a male prison at the age of 16, Longrigend Prison in Airdrie. On arrival, no one settled me in or explained anything about where I was or what to expect. I was flung straight into the deep end and placed directly into a cell with an older inmate. From that moment, the bullying started right away. He used me as a human punch bag, and the staff allowed this to happen. I felt completely helpless and abandoned.

The abuse quickly became a daily reality. He would beat me up and batter me repeatedly, and on some occasions the officers would come into the cell and help him. I was subjected to constant violence. My face was swollen and bruised all the time, I suffered black eyes and broken bones, and yet the staff would dismiss it and say that I had fallen. I had no voice and no protection.

The first time I tried to speak out was when I got to court and my lawyer asked me what had happened. I told him everything. He said he would look into it, but nothing ever came of it. Instead of being protected, this made things worse for me. After that, all the prison officers turned on me. They beat me, laughed at me, and tormented me further as punishment for speaking up.

They treated me like an adult, punching me, kicking me in the back and stomach, and using force against me that I could not defend myself from. They would put me into a lock, where they folded my arms behind my back and twisted my arms and legs. The pain was severe and overwhelming. Even to this day, thinking about those moments causes me distress and I can still feel the impact of it physically and mentally.

The showers were another place where I experienced extreme fear and humiliation. I was targeted there regularly. I was made fun of, with comparisons being made between my body and the bodies of adult men. I was slapped, pushed around, and degraded. It was deeply humiliating and damaging. I noticed that it was not the louder or stronger individuals who were targeted—it was the younger boys like me who had been forced into a male prison environment. I felt singled out, vulnerable, and completely unsafe.

This environment had a severe effect on my mental health. I felt trapped, terrified, and hopeless. I tried to take my own life a few times because I could not cope with what was happening to me. There was no escape from the abuse. Even basic daily activities were unbearable. The food was horrible, and there were times when it was tampered with, including being spat in. Meal times meant being taken to the dining room where I would again be bullied and humiliated. There was no safe place for me at any time.

The worst part of my entire experience, and the most difficult thing for me to speak about, was the sexual abuse I suffered. I was sexually assaulted daily by both the staff and the inmate I was forced to share a cell with. This was constant and ongoing for the months that I was there. I was living in complete fear, being terrorised, bullied, and abused in every possible way. This has had a profound and lasting impact on me.

I suffered in that environment for a number of months, and the effects of what I went through have stayed with me ever since. This is a very hard topic of conversation for me, and I have struggled my whole life to speak about it. I kept everything inside for years, which has caused me to suffer in silence. The trauma has never left me and has felt like it has been eating away at me over time.

As a result of what I experienced, I now suffer from severe anxiety, PTSD, and depression. I am on medication to try to manage these conditions, but the impact on my life has been significant and ongoing. I struggle every day with the memories and the effects of the abuse.

I find it extremely difficult to build relationships or trust people. I feel that I have been failed my whole life by the people who were supposed to protect me. Because of this, I have become withdrawn and isolated. My confidence has been completely destroyed, and I struggle to feel safe in the world. At times, I cannot even bring myself to leave the house. The experiences I went through at such a young age have affected every part of my life, and I continue to live with the consequences of that trauma every day.