

Statement Addendum

Client Name: James Weir
Date of Birth: 12/03/1989
Care Setting: Nuffield house and changed its name to rowanlea house
Dates: 2001
Persons Involved:

Full Statement

I have always been a target of abuse from a very young age. Before I was taken into care, I grew up in Broom Street, Scotland, where my life at home was extremely abusive. I was regularly locked in cupboards, beaten, and refused basic necessities such as being allowed to go to the toilet. If I asked, I would be punished and beaten. I also witnessed horrific abuse within my family, including my sisters being sexually abused by my nana. My mum was also physically abusive towards me and, on one occasion, smashed a ceramic mug over my head. From my earliest memories, I have always been a victim of abuse.

My real father also raped me when I was just 3 years old. This is something that has stayed with me my entire life and has deeply affected my mental health and sense of safety.

At the age of 13, I was taken into care and placed in Nuffield House, which later changed its name to Rowan Lea House. Unfortunately, the abuse did not stop there—it became a daily reality. I was abused, beaten black and blue, and treated in a way that no child should ever experience. There was a staff member called Christine Stewart, who was a manager, and in my experience, she was extremely cruel. There was also Wendy Harvey. They would constantly beat me and restrain me by sitting on me until I was breathless. I would be crying, unable to breathe, and turning blue. This happened frequently and caused severe panic attacks that I still suffer from to this day.

My friend Brian Mitchell, who was also in the home, has said that he could hear me screaming in pain and fear. That is how severe the abuse was—it was constant and could be heard by others. The staff also allowed older children to beat me up daily. I was terrified to leave my dorm because I knew I would be attacked. The staff were brutal. They would punch me, kick me, and throw me around. They also verbally abused me, constantly calling me names.

Another staff member, Helen Brady, would bend my arms and knees up my back while laughing at me. This was humiliating, painful, and degrading. I was also frequently locked in my room and kept in isolation, which had a severe impact on my mental health. During this time, I was suffering from ADHD, but instead of support, I was punished and neglected.

As a result of everything I went through, I struggle with basic day-to-day tasks even now. I have difficulty doing simple things like tying my laces, understanding numbers, and writing. I believe this is because I was

deprived of a proper childhood, education, and support. My life has been deeply affected by the abuse from my parents, the children's home, and the systems that were supposed to protect me but failed me completely. I never had a normal childhood.

Later, I was put in touch with a service called befriending services. A man and a woman would come to the children's home. The man, Craig Walker, who was a maths tutor, sexually assaulted me. His husband, James Walker, who previously had the surname Nicholl, also sexually assaulted me. This was another betrayal of trust and safety by people who were supposed to help me.

At the children's home, I was also deprived of food. Food was used as a punishment and held against me. Every day I was terrorised—physically, mentally, and sexually abused. I was often locked away, including being put in cupboards. I became so desperate that I tried to run away, running across potato fields barefoot and in shorts because I was starving and desperate to escape the beatings. I believed I would be safer on the streets because I had no help and no trust in anyone.

There were also times when my mental health was extremely bad, and instead of receiving support, I was punished further. I was grounded and stopped from going on trips with other children because of my ADHD. This made me feel isolated, different, and rejected.

I have been diagnosed with ADHD, and everything I have experienced has had a lasting and severe impact on my mental health. I suffer daily and am on prescribed medication. I am also a recovering alcoholic, which I believe is directly linked to the trauma I have experienced throughout my life.

I have never been able to maintain normal relationships. I struggle to trust anyone and do not feel safe around people. I cannot control my emotions, and I am constantly anxious and worried. I feel that I have been failed my entire life by the people and systems that were meant to protect me.

This has completely ruined my life. I have felt suicidal and continue to suffer deeply from everything that has happened to me. I have been abused by so many people throughout my life, and the impact of that is something I carry every day. I struggle to maintain relationships and friendships, and I recognise that this is due to the trauma and problems caused by my upbringing. Even now, I am still suffering as a result of everything I have been through.