

# Statement Addendum

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**Client Name:** Lewis Duncan  
**Date of Birth:** 22/10/1984  
**Care Setting:** Nuffield in Johnson  
**Dates:** 1995  
**Persons Involved:**

## Full Statement

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In 1995 I was placed in Nuffield in Johnson, where I stayed for over a year. My time there was extremely difficult and traumatic, and the way I was treated has had a lasting impact on my mental health and wellbeing.

From the moment I arrived, the environment felt more like a prison than somewhere that was meant to care for children. Everything was kept under lock and key. Doors were constantly locked, and we were often locked inside rooms with no freedom to move around. Even basic things like getting something to eat were controlled. If we were hungry outside of the strict meal times, we were not allowed to get a snack because the cupboards and kitchens were locked. We were forced to wait until the scheduled times to eat, regardless of how hungry we were. This made me feel powerless and neglected.

We were also frequently locked inside our bedrooms or classrooms by staff. Being locked away like that made me feel trapped and isolated. I remember feeling extremely distressed and anxious because I had no control over where I could go or what I could do. It felt like punishment just for existing there.

The way staff treated us was often aggressive and abusive. I was regularly dragged, pushed, and slapped around by staff members. This was not a one-off event — it happened frequently and became something I lived in fear of on a daily basis. When it was time to shower, staff would sometimes escort me forcefully and roughly, grabbing and flinging me towards the showers in a way that caused pain and humiliation. Instead of being treated like a child who needed care and support, I felt like I was being handled like a problem that needed to be controlled.

The physical treatment I experienced left me feeling frightened, angry, and constantly on edge. I started to feel like I always had to be ready to defend myself. Over time this had a major effect on my behaviour and emotional state.

When I first arrived, I struggled a lot with the other children. Some of the older children targeted me and were physically aggressive towards me. They would hit me and call me names. Instead of stepping in to protect me or stop the bullying, staff often did nothing. I felt completely unsupported and vulnerable. I was left to deal with the violence and intimidation on my own.

Eventually, things only started to feel slightly safer when I became friends with another boy called Andrew Curry. Before that friendship, I felt extremely alone and constantly under threat from the other children.

Having at least one person I could trust made a small difference in a place that otherwise felt hostile and

unsafe.

Another thing that caused me a lot of distress was that my mum's boyfriend was allowed to visit me there. This was extremely upsetting because he had been abusive towards me and was one of the main reasons I had been taken into care in the first place. Allowing him to visit felt like my safety and feelings were not being taken seriously. Each time he visited it caused me intense stress, anxiety, and fear. Instead of feeling protected by the system that was supposed to care for me, I felt like I was being put back into contact with someone who had already harmed me.

Living in that environment for over a year had a severe impact on my mental health. Being constantly locked in rooms, physically handled by staff, bullied by other children, and exposed to someone who had abused me made me feel powerless and unsafe all the time. I developed a deep sense of anxiety and mistrust towards adults and authority figures. I often felt angry, scared, and emotionally overwhelmed.

The experiences I went through during that time have stayed with me for many years. They affected how I see people, how I deal with stress, and how safe I feel around others. Instead of receiving care, stability, and protection, my time there exposed me to further trauma and abuse at a time in my life when I was already vulnerable.

The physical and emotional treatment I experienced during that period has had long-lasting consequences for my mental health, including ongoing anxiety, distressing memories, and difficulty trusting people. What happened to me there has left a deep impact that I have carried with me ever since.

Between 1996 and 1999 I was placed at The Kibble in Paisley. I spent several years there, and my experience during that time was extremely distressing. Instead of feeling safe or supported, I felt like I was being treated more like a problem to be controlled than a child who needed care and protection.

The way staff treated many of us was often very harsh and physical. I was frequently handled with force and spoken to in degrading ways. Staff would make nasty comments and talk down to us as if we were not worth anything. The atmosphere in the unit was hostile and intimidating, and it made me feel constantly on edge. One of the most traumatic parts of being there was the way restraints were used. Staff would restrain me in ways that caused a lot of pain. They would force my arms behind my back and sometimes sit on top of me while holding me down. These restraints were extremely painful and frightening. I remember feeling helpless and scared while adults who were meant to protect me were using force against me. It felt humiliating and degrading, and it made me terrified of staff members.

I also witnessed similar treatment happening to other children, both in the residential unit and within the school. Seeing other children being restrained or handled aggressively by staff was deeply upsetting. It created an environment where fear was normal, and none of us felt safe. It was clear that this kind of treatment was not just happening to me.

During my time there I was often locked in my room and isolated from others. I spent long periods alone, which made me feel extremely lonely and cut off from everyone around me. Instead of being supported socially or emotionally, I felt like I was being punished and excluded.

I struggled badly with my mental health during this time. Being isolated for long periods, combined with the way I was treated by staff and other children, made me feel hopeless and distressed. I felt like nobody was listening to me or caring about how I felt.

Another issue was the lack of proper education. During my time there I did not receive the level of education that I should have. I fell behind and struggled academically because the support simply was not there. This had a lasting effect on my confidence and opportunities later in life.

Staff would also take my belongings away from me as punishment. Having my personal things taken away made me feel like I had no control over anything in my life. I was also not allowed to use the leisure facilities that other children could access. Being excluded from these activities increased my sense of isolation and reinforced the feeling that I was being singled out.

Bullying from other children was another serious problem. I was targeted and bullied, but staff often failed to intervene or stop it. Instead of protecting me, they allowed it to continue. This made me feel completely unsupported and vulnerable. I felt like I had nowhere to turn for help.

The combination of physical restraint, emotional abuse, isolation, lack of education, and bullying had a severe impact on my mental health. I felt constantly anxious, angry, and deeply unhappy. I struggled with feelings of loneliness and worthlessness because of how I was treated.

Looking back, my time at The Kibble in Paisley left lasting emotional scars. Instead of receiving care, guidance, and support, I experienced fear, force, and isolation. Those years had a major impact on my mental health, my trust in others, and my ability to feel safe around authority figures. The experiences I went through there continue to affect me long after leaving that environment.