

# Statement Addendum

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**Client Name:** Lee Johnstone  
**Date of Birth:** 09/02/1976  
**Care Setting:** Keirlaw Care Home  
**Dates:** 1988- 1990  
**Persons Involved:** mrs Mac

## Full Statement

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After that, I was placed at Keirlaw Care Home in Stevenson, and this is where my care experience became a living nightmare.

Within the first week, I was subjected to severe physical, emotional, and psychological abuse.

I clearly remember being stripped naked by staff and dragged down to the showers in front of everyone. I was forced to shower naked alongside other naked children, while staff stood and watched. We were told they "had to watch us." This was humiliating, degrading, and terrifying. If I refused, I was beaten, slapped, punched, and kicked.

There was a staff member who would punch me in the stomach, knocking the breath out of me. I was left gasping in pain and fear. I was already extremely anxious and vulnerable, and this violence only made things worse.

I was a bed wetter, which was something I had no control over due to fear and trauma. Instead of being supported, I was publicly

humiliated. Staff would embarrass me in front of the other children, both boys and girls, calling me names like "pee pants

Johnston." I was sometimes forced to stay in my bed while the bedding was wet, which was degrading and cruel.

I was also physically restrained regularly. Staff would grab my wrists, force my arms behind my back, sit on me, and hold me down. This caused intense pain and panic, and I felt completely powerless.

Contact with my family was stopped.

Weekend visits were taken away, and I was not allowed to go home or speak to my family. I was completely isolated, with no one to turn to and no one to protect me.

This reinforced the neglect I had experienced my whole life and made me feel abandoned and worthless.

I was often left hungry, as we were sent straight to bed if we refused to eat cold food. The environment felt like a prison.

There were bars on the windows, like metal gates, and the secure unit had cells where other children were taken. Seeing this terrified me and caused me to start running away, as I was desperate to escape. I did not want to be there.

I remember being caught running down the road wearing only my boxers, completely distressed and desperate. I also remember Mrs Mac, as we called her. She was extremely nasty, vicious, and cruel. She would beat us, verbally abuse us, and deliberately turn children against each other. She encouraged older boys to beat me. I will never forget her face or the fear she caused.

There were other things happening involving other children, but we all knew to keep our mouths shut. We were all scared for our lives. We felt trapped, secluded, and powerless.

The abuse, neglect, and bullying I experienced both before and during care have had devastating long-term effects on my mental health. My ability to form

relationships has been destroyed. I do not trust people, I suffer from nightmares, and I live with PTSD, constantly reliving

these experiences. I struggle daily just to function and live a normal life.

As a result of the extreme stress, fear, and trauma—particularly from repeatedly running away—I developed Guillain-Barré Syndrome, which doctors linked to the effects on my nervous system. I was paralysed for over a year and a half, which has had a lasting physical and psychological impact on my life.

The abuse I suffered in care has followed me into adulthood. It has affected my mental health, my physical health, my relationships, and my ability to feel safe in the world. These experiences have left deep and lasting scars that I continue to struggle with every day.