

Statement Addendum

Client Name: John McClure
Date of Birth: 13/03/1958
Care Setting: Loaningdale LSD School
Dates: 1972-1974
Persons Involved:

Full Statement

At the age of 14, I was then placed at Loaningdale LSD School in Biggar, where I remained for over two years.

At Loaningdale, we were supposedly allowed home once every six weeks for one weekend, but this was constantly used against me. Staff would deliberately withhold visits to keep me away from my family and siblings. This isolation caused me deep emotional pain.

The abuse at Loaningdale was relentless and amounted to sustained mental torture. I was bullied, mocked, and humiliated daily. I was called names such as "soapy" and "fatty" because of my weight and because I came from a deprived area. Staff allowed this behaviour and openly laughed along with it.

Staff members involved included Mr Craig, Mr Whitehouse, Mr Wilson (the headmaster), Mr Kennedy, Mr Adam, Mrs Haggerty, Mr and Mrs Marrick. They acted together and enabled the abuse. Mrs Haggerty, who was married to Mr Adam, was particularly nasty towards me.

I was regularly punished by being physically restrained, during which my wrists were hurt. I was locked away alone

for long periods or forced to sit isolated in rooms by myself. I was often sent to bed hungry. This continued consistently for over two years and caused me severe psychological harm.

We quickly learned not to speak up because the punishments for doing so were far worse. We were made to shower under supervision at all times, with staff claiming they had to assist us. Being watched naked by adults was humiliating and degrading. Staff would make comments about my body, which added to my shame, especially as I was already being called names about my weight.

Over time, this treatment destroyed my sense of self. I became withdrawn and isolated. I did not form friendships, and to this day I struggle to trust anyone. The

abuse I endured has had lasting effects on my mental health. I suffer from depression, anxiety, and PTSD. I constantly feel unwanted and unworthy, and this has played a major role in shaping my life and sense of identity.

The trauma from my time in care has never left me. It has affected my relationships, my confidence, and my ability to feel safe. At the age of 16, I ran away and was forced to survive on my own.

What I experienced in care was not protection — it was prolonged abuse, neglect, and torture that has had lifelong consequences.