

Statement Addendum

Client Name: Donna Sullivan
Date of Birth: 25/07/1970
Care Setting: Craig residential school
Dates: 1979
Persons Involved: Miss McCourt

Full Statement

Full name

Donna Sullivan

Date of birth

25/07/1970

Address

8 , G34 9HH

Contact telephone number

07464645950

Email address

Dondonsullivan1970@gmail.com

Other names used (if any)

did have married name- Mckenzie

GP Surgery name, address, contact number

Is survivor 68+ or terminally ill?

Brain Tumours – YES

Parents' names and DOB

Mum- Kathleen Sullivan , Dad- William Sullivan

Childhood address prior to care

187 common head road , g34 0df

Siblings names and DOBs

2 Siblings

1 sister was with her called Deborah-

other sister wasn't born then

Local authority cared under

Kirmanock

Age / years placed in care

9 years old

Establishments placed in (Care home they was in)

Craig residential school – Full time

Beneficiary details (next of kin)

Partner- Stewart Dudley- 447721342961

Supporting statement contact (don't mention till end)

Reason placed into care

Mum was ill and her dad worked away

Police involvement details

Statement

My first memories of that place are of being absolutely terrified. I was scared, upset, and completely overwhelmed. The building was very old and my first impression was that it felt like a prison. From the moment I arrived, I felt fear and anxiety, and I was never given any support or comfort to help me settle in. I was simply placed in a dormitory and given rules, with no care for how frightened I was.

I clearly remember the head teacher. She was extremely frightening and spoke to us in a very nasty, cruel way. Her presence alone made me feel small and powerless. I also remember Miss McCourt, who regularly physically abused me. She would hit me with a shoe and with a belt. This was not a one-off incident — it happened repeatedly. I lived in constant fear of being hurt.

She would also force-feed me food that I did not like. Many nights I was made to sit at the table until around 9pm, being forced to eat while crying and distressed. This was humiliating and traumatic. My dormitory was locked, which made me feel trapped and terrified. I felt like I was locked in and had no escape.

Throughout my time there, I was constantly verbally abused. I was called names like “weasel” and “rat.” They always used animal names, and I now understand that this was because they treated us like animals — not like children, and not like human beings.

I suffered physical abuse throughout my entire time there. I can still vividly relive being hit across my legs with a shoe. Even now, I can still feel it in my body. I was very young, scared, and traumatised. I would sometimes wet the bed, and instead of helping me, they humiliated me. They shouted about it in front of the other children, repeatedly embarrassed me, and forced me to sleep in the wet bed as punishment.

Many times, I was locked in my room and denied dinner or supper. I was isolated, hungry, and alone. I also witnessed severe abuse happening to other children while I was there, which added to my fear and distress.

When my dad returned from working away, I was not allowed to see my family. I was made to believe that no one wanted to see me, that I was unwanted and forgotten. This caused deep emotional pain and abandonment.

I tried to run away because I was so desperate to escape. When they caught me, I was beaten viciously with a shoe and a trouser belt. The violence was extreme, and it made me believe that this abuse was never going to end and that there was no way out.

I also had to watch my sister suffer the same abuse. Seeing her go through this made me feel even more vulnerable and helpless. Eventually, they took her away from me and kept us segregated. We were not allowed to continue our relationship as sisters. Losing her protection and comfort caused me deep emotional damage and guilt that I still carry.

What I experienced has caused lifelong trauma. It has completely changed me as a person and affected every part of my life. I suffer from severe mental health conditions, including very bad PTSD. I still have nightmares to this day. I live with constant guilt about what my sister went through, and the memories never leave me.

The abuse I suffered — physical, emotional, and psychological — has stayed with me my whole life. I am still living with the consequences of what was done to me.