

Statement Addendum

Client Name: Kevin Sexton
Date of Birth: 31/08/1952
Care Setting: Land Bank in Greenock
Dates: 1957
Persons Involved:

Full Statement

In 1957 I was placed in Land Bank in Greenock. The institution was run by priests and nuns, and my memories of that time are extremely painful and traumatic. Instead of receiving care and compassion as a child, I was subjected to fear, strict regimentation, and harsh punishment.

From the beginning, the environment was very controlling and intimidating. Everything was based on strict rules and orders. We were expected to obey immediately without question. If we didn't follow instructions exactly as demanded, we would be punished. The priests and nuns often used physical force to discipline us. I remember being slapped, pushed, and handled roughly on many occasions. Living in that constant fear of punishment made every day extremely stressful and frightening.

The staff would also mock and wind me up about my family life and force their strict Christian rules onto us in ways that felt humiliating and cruel. Instead of guiding us or supporting us, they used religion and authority to control and intimidate us. I often felt singled out and targeted. There were many times when I was deliberately isolated as punishment. I would be made to stand in corners for long periods or be placed alone in isolated rooms away from everyone else.

Physical punishment was common. I remember being slapped and beaten with leather belts. My brother was also there with me, and both of us experienced this treatment. Seeing him being beaten was extremely distressing, and we both lived in constant fear of when the next punishment would come.

Food was also used as a punishment. There were days when we were not fed properly. Sometimes we would go hungry because we were too frightened to ask for food. On other days we would be locked in our rooms crying and asking for something to eat but ignored by staff. Being left hungry like that as a child was extremely upsetting and degrading. It made us feel neglected and powerless.

Another thing that stands out in my memory is being forced to take cold showers. We were often dragged there by force if we refused or hesitated. The staff would physically grab us and push us towards the showers without any care for how frightened or uncomfortable we were.

The way the staff spoke to us was also cruel and degrading. They would call us names, mock us, and torment us emotionally. Instead of speaking kindly to children who were already vulnerable, they treated us as if we were problems or burdens. This constant verbal abuse made me feel worthless and deeply ashamed.

Restraint and physical handling were also used in very aggressive ways. Staff would grab me violently,

sometimes pulling me by the ear or hitting me across the face or on the nose. These actions caused pain and humiliation. I often felt completely powerless.

At one point I tried to run away because I was so desperate to escape the environment. When I was captured, I was severely beaten as punishment for trying to leave. That experience made me realise that there was no easy way to escape what was happening.

These experiences had a very deep emotional impact on me as a child. I grew up feeling frightened, isolated, and unsure who I could trust. The abuse and treatment I experienced in that place caused long-lasting damage to my mental health. When I was younger, I struggled badly with anxiety, emotional distress, and trusting other people.

Despite everything that happened, I tried to move forward with my life. At the age of 15 I started working because I wanted to get out into the world and build a life for myself. Later, I joined the navy and tried to create a better future. Eventually I built a life and a family of my own.

However, the memories of what happened to me in that institution have never left me. The experiences from that time continue to affect me even now. I still struggle with anxiety and feelings of rejection, and the memories of how I was treated remain very painful. What happened there as a child has stayed with me for the rest of my life, and I will never forget the fear, hunger, and abuse that my brother and I endured.