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## Victims and families speak out following sentencing of Paul Lipscombe

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Following the sentencing of Paul Lipscombe, the six girls he abused, and their families, have released their own statements.

As victims of sexual offences, the girls cannot be identified.

To read more about the case, visit: [Police investigation leads to 28 years behind bars for Snapchat groomer | Leicestershire Police](#)

Girl A – who was 15 at the time of Lipscombe’s offending

“At the time he made me feel happy, he made me feel loved – I was so obsessed with him, and that obsession made me blind. When he was arrested, I was worried, upset and I missed him. Now I just feel anger toward him.

“My parents don’t understand why I didn’t trust them. I don’t think they will ever be able to see me in the same way. I feel so guilty about having to lie about where I was.

“When I started talking to him, I didn’t think much of it at first, but he made me feel wanted. I hated myself at the time and was willing to do anything to get the slightest amount of love, even though it was wrong.

“The whole court process has been stressful. I thought he would plead guilty at the first opportunity and that would be that, but he didn’t. Not because that’s what he really thinks – he knows what he did and what he is guilty of, but to give himself more time. He only pleaded guilty at the last minute for his own selfish gain.”

The father of girl A

“We are writing this statement to express the profound impact that this crime has had on our daughter and our family. Before this happened, she was happy, social, and confident teenager, but now she has changed in ways that concern us. When she was younger, she was always the one in the group that was smiling, laughter and messing around, always ready to join in the fun. Now it seems that little spark has gone, the energy she brought with her is absent.

“One of the most important jobs as a parent is to protect your children from harm and I feel that I have let her down when she needed me the most. We are still in shock that after all of guidance that we gave about online safety and trusting strangers she was still entrapped, and we wonder how much more we should have done as parents. The guilt that we did not see the signs that she needed help and was in trouble will haunt us every day.

"Since we found out that all of this had happened it has changed our relationship with her. We are more protective and find ourselves worrying constantly when she goes out, even with friends we have known for a long time. At a time when she should be enjoying her freedom, exploring the world, and looking forward to her future, we feel forced to hold her back out of fear for her safety. Instead of watching her grow into an independent young woman, we are watching her struggle to move forward from this experience.

“We hope that now justice is served that she can find a way to heal from this and move forward. But the impact of this crime will not disappear overnight. It will take time, support, and strength for her to rebuild what was taken from her. She will need a great deal of continued support for some time if she has any hope of overcoming the trauma.”

Girl B – who was 12 at the time of Lipscombe’s offending

“I regret ever accepting his request when he randomly added me on Snapchat.

"I regret ever falling for his lies and meeting him. He did things to me that I wasn't old enough to understand and now because of him I am scared of meeting new people.

"I thought of him as my boyfriend – he convinced me of that. But I was nothing more to him than someone he could use to get what he wanted.

"I lied to my parents to protect him, but he was the adult, I was the child. I shouldn't have had to protect him.

"I feel disgust towards him for what he did to me."

#### The parents of girl B

"Last year we were contacted by a police officer who had to explain to us that our daughter had been seriously sexually abused by an adult man. It is absolutely disgusting what he did to our 12-year-old daughter. He knew what he was doing was illegal and that is why he told her not to tell anyone about it as he knew he would get into trouble for doing it. He got her to trust him and lie to us – he controlled her and has ruined her childhood.

"We feel angry, scared, and confused – we struggle to understand it. What has happened has changed us as parents. We struggle to trust anyone around her now and feel like we need to constantly check where she is and who she is speaking to.

"Our daughter's mental health has really suffered. She is so low, and she rarely goes out with her friends. All she thinks about is what happened to her – she can't get it out of her mind.

"Everything is still really raw, and she hasn't been able to process fully what has happened to her. We worry about the impact it will have on her when she finally does. We worry about her future relationships and whether she will be able to trust anyone in the future."



Girl C – who was 15 at the time of Lipscombe's offending

"No amount of time in prison will ever make up for what he has put me through.

"Before meeting him I used to be able to talk to my family about everything but since this has happened I don't feel I can talk to anyone about what he did. It has affected my relationship with my parents. They want to talk to me about that happened and how I am feeling but I am not ready for that. I don't want to keep on thinking about him.

"I no longer like going out alone and I get really scared if I am out and men are close to me. Before all of this I could only see the good in people, but he has opened my eyes and I now see just how evil people can be.

"I think the biggest impact that this has had is that now I just don't trust anyone. He gained my trust, but he did that by telling me lies. Now when I meet people I am always thinking they are lying to me. I think this will impact me as I get older – it will possibly stop me from wanting to be in a relationship as the thought of getting close to someone makes me so scared."

Parents of girl C

"This year has been the worst year we have had to endure as a family. Our whole family has been affected but together we will work to get through this.

"We have watched our daughter become shut off from the world. As parents this is the worst feeling in the world, and this has put us through hell.

"But we are so proud of how she has dealt with what has happened and her bravery in talking to the police and exposing what he has done. It is because of her that he has been stopped from hurting another child."

Girl D – who was 14 at the time of Lipscombe's offending

"I have tried to put what he did behind me and thought it would never come up, but I was wrong.

"I hate going to school and walking home. When I walk past my old house it brings back memories of the things he did to me. I have developed anxiety and I struggle in crowds – I never used to be that way.

"I am haunted by the memories and the nightmares. I struggle to sleep. Whenever I close my eyes, I have no control over it.

"I hate him for what he has done to me and the damage he has caused me and my family. I feel disgust whenever I think about him."

Parents of girl D

"My daughter has become very anxious and has not been able to concentrate on her normal daily routines.

"There are many times I have had to pick her up from school due to her trying to self-harm or threatening to take her own life. I lie awake at night worrying about how this is going to affect her in the future. I will continue to support her best I can and keep her safe.

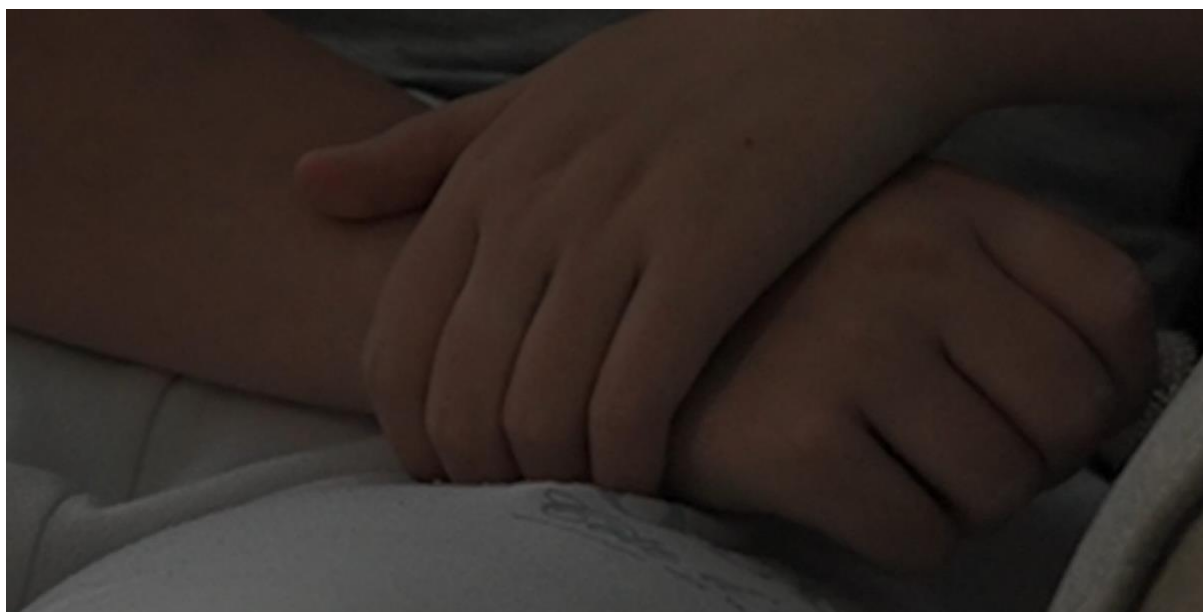
"You never think something like this will ever happen to your child.

"I had no idea what was going on until the police contacted me to say they had evidence to believe my child has been groomed online by someone she had met on Snapchat. Hearing that was devastating, it was totally earth shattering.

"It has had a huge impact on our family. I continue to grieve the life my daughter could have had. She should not have gone through this and had her innocence taken away from her. Looking back, I can see there were changes in her behaviour – she had become more withdrawn and secretive.

"I cannot express how much you can hate someone you don't know for hurting your daughter. He has turned our lives upside down.

"It is heartbreaking to see your daughter go through something like this. I hate that I cannot take her pain or those horrible memories away from her."



Girl E – who was 14 at the time of Lipscombe’s offending

“I feel so overwhelmed, reserved and more closed off to the world. I don’t like being around groups of people. I won’t go anywhere near a man I don’t know.

“I feel I am closed away from my family and am more distant. I feel ashamed and worried that I am adding to their problems.

“My anxiety is a lot worse – I feel constantly sick. When I do get to sleep, I have nightmares about him – I see him and hear his voice.

“I feel isolated from my friends because I can’t talk to them about what happened as I don’t want them to know. I am anxious about future relationships – how do I know that not everyone is like him?

“I don’t know how I heal from this. I just have to take it one day at a time.”

Parents of girl E

“Our daughter’s anxiety has got worse since this despicable man contacted her. She won’t go anywhere alone. She has become a shell of her former self. She used to be bubbly and bright, now she has become reclusive, and her schoolwork has plummeted.

“She struggles to sleep at night, and she doesn’t like being alone. Her urge to self-harm has got worse. Since the incident she has become detached from male family members and friends too.

“We also worry about the impact this will have on our family’s future. We have a younger daughter, and we fear that the same thing could happen to her. We feel we can no longer trust anyone around our children.”

Girl F – who was 14 at the time of Lipscombe's offending

Sister of girl F

"When the police visited, I was in total shock and thought they must have made a mistake. I feel sad and disgusted thinking about what he has done and how he has traumatised her, a child.

"My sister now suffers with anger issues. She is now very reactive and will cry and scream over little things. She feels so mad all the time but doesn't know why.

"She no longer wants to go to school. She feels anxious and thinks everyone knows what happened to her. She has become closed off and doesn't want to talk about what has happened. Whenever she thinks about him and what he did, she gets angry and starts to cry.

"She struggles to trust anyone now and I worry about the impact this will have on her life and future relationships."

For anyone who wants to report information or possible offences committed by Lipscombe, visit: [Public Portal](#)

You can also call Leicestershire Police on 101. In an emergency always call 999.

For more information around spotting the signs and where to get further support, visit: <https://www.leics.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/gr/grooming/>