

Initial Survivor Supplementary Statement**Date Completed:** 20/07/2026**Survivor Full Name:** Thomas Harper**Other known name:** None**DOB:** 06/10/1978**Redress Priority:** Low**Serious Criminal Convictions:** None**Mother's Name:** Rose Carroll**Father's Name:** Joseph Harper**Name of Care Home(s):** Longriggend, Polmont, Glenochil**Age in care:** 16 - 18**Reason for going into care:** Assault**1.Introduction**

My name is Thomas Harper. I am making this statement to share my experiences of being in care as a child and the impact these experiences have had on my life. Some of the details are difficult for me to talk about, and some memories are clearer than others, but I will describe what I remember to the best of my ability. I understand that my records from the time are limited or incomplete, and I want to explain my experiences in my own words.

2.My time in Care – Overview**Longriggend**

I was placed here for about five weeks on remand to begin with. I remember arriving at reception and a prison officer had heard that other prisoners knew I was coming in, so I was warned as soon as I got in the door. My cell door got opened as soon as I had got in there and two officers came to give me another warning that if I done anything out of place, I would suffer the consequences. I done a strike in here due to the prison conditions being so disgusting. Not having a toilet in the cell was degrading and dehumanising. There were two prisoners to a cell with little urine buckets that would only hold two urines at a time. I would need to hold any bowel movement in as we were not allowed to use the buckets for that, which would cause me great stomach pain. The weekend was particularly awful, with prisoners being locked in the cell from half three in the afternoon until the next day, so the cells would be absolutely vulgar to be staying in. I nearly got my wrist snapped being restrained by officers in here, locking my arms up my back. My hands were that sore I was unable to feed myself for a few days. The guards were far too rough-handed with young boys. I developed a drug habit in here, turning to heroin to block it all out. Mixing with adults. Sopping out.

Polmont

I was in and out of Polmont a few times in between the ages of sixteen and eighteen. I was given a stark warning on entering here also. I was not to put a step out of line, or I would suffer the consequences. I got quite a few beatings in here. On one occasion I was beat quite bad in my cell during riots, and I still suffer with a sore knee due to this beating. Still not right. Again, officers were overly rough restraining me when I had only been sticking up for myself against other prisoners. I had to slop out in here as well, using a bucket to urinate in. I had a bell to get the guards' attention, which they would turn off rather than helping me if I required help from my cell. Nearly broke my wrist during restraint.

Glenochil

Glenochil, I had one encounter with a guard in here who put me on report for my room not being clean enough, which was a bit of dust on top of the door. I was taken to see the governor and I was found guilty. I argued my point with the governor, and I was dragged out by officers and beaten for daring to argue back. I suffered from black eyes and a broken nose. At half six every morning, I would need to do two laps of the football park along with a bleep test in the gym hall. If I did not make it in time for the beep, I would be forced to do further exercises. I was treated poorly in all three establishments and the prison conditions back then were horrific. I developed a drug habit in prison, which I managed to clean up when I was twenty-two and got married. My teenage years were horrendous, and I believe if I was never sent to young offenders, I would not have developed an addiction.

3.Emotional and Long-Term Impact

I was introduced to Heroin whilst in care. My teenage years were horrendous, and I believe if I was never sent to young offenders, I would not have developed an addiction.

4.Closing Statement

I am making this statement to help Redress Scotland understand what happened to me and how it has affected me. I am doing this in the hope that my experiences will be acknowledged and that I can continue to move forward in my life.

Thank you for taking the time to read my statement.

Signed: Thomas Harper

Date: 20/07/2026

Added via phone call 21/07/2026: Hi, Thomas Harper here. Some things I didn't mention, where I was taken to punishment block with excessive force a few times, nearly breaking my wrist on occasion, whilst in punishment block, I couldn't use a knife or fork and had to eat my food by picking plate up and eating direct from the plate. I was attacked for virtually no reason a couple times on my first 2 times in longriggend and Polmont. A boy on my landing, Gerard Donnelly, hanged himself and I saw his body before the officers took control. I saw a lot of violence including people being slashed with a razor or stabbed with a homemade weapon. When remanded or convicted aged 16-18 we had to spend the night in Barlinnie, sharing a cell with another young person but in morning getting washed we mixed with adults which was very intimidating. I later found out this hall (B Hall) was a protection hall, for rapists etc, people on protection from main population. There was a riot when I was 17 and the officers fled and only returned in numbers around 20-30 mins later. I was beaten in longriggend, pushed downstairs on my 1st time in because I wasn't going fast enough, by a Mr Clark. We were rarely taken to prison infirmary if it was officers who injured you. No toilet in cell, we had to use a small bucket which we had to empty each morning, sometimes overflowing, very degrading. I didn't claim slop out compensation as I was told I was too late. When in punishment block, we were locked up 23 hours a day, had no writing materials unless an officer was kind enough to give me one, which was rare. I wasn't allowed a work party or access to the gym while there too. There were times I was refused access to the infirmary after excessive force or when my knee was hurt and my nose burst open. Name of someone who was in with me and can verify the treatment we both got is Edward McCulloch, his number is 07354964166. My younger brother Joseph Harper is also someone I told about time in care as he came through prison too and I had to tell him to keep his head down or the officers would hurt you. His number is 07447607695. Hope this helps. Thanks, Thomas Harper.

Added on 21/07/2026: Hi my partner has encouraged me to tell you about something I've only told 2 people ever. Whilst in Barlinnie overnight, I was getting washed one morning alongside the other convicts who were a mixture of fellow young offenders and adults who were imprisoned in this hall. I found myself just me, aged 16, with 2 other adult prisoners who sexually assaulted me, one tried grabbing me in inappropriate places and before the 2nd adult could do anything another group of people came into the bathroom, and they then left me alone. There was no officer monitoring the bathroom at this time and I didn't say anything because I was scared and even aged 16 I knew you couldn't go tell the officers what happened or you were labelled a "grass" which is basically a big target on your back. First person I confided in was my dad, who has passed away, and my current partner, as she shared a traumatic experience with me and then I felt I could tell her about this without feeling ashamed. It is hard even writing this, I wasn't going to mention it, but the truth about how we were treated back

then has to come out. Thanks, Thomas Harper. If you need her details I can provide them.