

SUPPORT STATEMENT

SECTION A — SURVIVOR DETAILS

Survivor Name: John Collins

Date of Birth: 13/04/1975

Care Setting(s): Redbrae House, Maybole, Carmichael House

SECTION B — Supporting Person Details

Name: Gemma Collins

Relationship to Survivor: Sister

Length of Relationship: Lifelong

Purpose of This Statement

I am providing this statement in support of John's Redress Scotland application. I know them personally and wish to offer information about her experiences she shared with me, and the impact this has had on her life.

How I know the Survivor

I am the survivor's sister.

What the Survivor shared with me

John didn't share very much until we went to see the film "I swear". He said all this that's coming out about care homes is true and it happened to him. So, it was actually me that encouraged him that he should contact someone like yourself. He just said that when he hears all the stories of what happened to children in care, he used to think it just happened to him. He went away into a home in primary 2 and came back out at primary 6 and you're thinking that's a baby. It actually affected my life as well because I used to be thinking I was also going to get taken away in a home, so it was horrible to be a sister at the time. I did actually ask him what he wanted to get out of this process and he said he wasn't sure, but he thought there should be more awareness for what actually happened to people in care homes. It was absolutely ridiculous that they took children away at that age and John wasn't even that bad, looking back it was probably ADHD or autism or something. If you think about primary 2 is aged 6 so I would have been aged about 4 or 5 at the time so all I knew is that my brother has been taken away, and I don't

know why and probably my mum didn't know why either. I asked John once before do you hate mum for putting you in a home and he said no it wasn't mum who put me in there it was actually the education system. That's when I realised this is absolutely awful. I think it's hard for a man who's quite a tough man if you like to come forward at 50 years of age and say when I was in the home I was battered and this and that happened. I think it's absolutely shocking that this happened and they were treated terribly, I think he was scared to tell my mum as she was a single parent, and he probably just wanted to get out.

Impact to survivor that I have observed

He suffers as an adult, and he is not coping at all. However, I also have my own troubles so sometimes I feel like, okay you can't blame John for everything as he was in a home. John has never been for a diagnosis or tried to understand himself he has always just been quiet about it all. In terms of relationships, in terms of his work, in terms of addiction and in terms of absolutely everything my brother really struggles and I don't think he actually wants to be here. I have had to stop speaking to him and seeing him as much as I don't feel great myself. Our mum passed away and John has not coped well with the grief, but I don't think he has coped well with anything in his life. I think it has affected him as a father and as a brother. I remember him through all of primary school and secondary school struggling with bulimia and regurgitating in his mouth all the time, it's like he was constantly on edge. He would be physically sick all the time it was almost like a form of self-harm.

Supporting Statement confirmation

I offer this statement to support the above survivor's application. Everything I have written reflects what he has shared with me and what I have personally observed during the time I have known them.

Name: Gemma Collins

Date: 17/02/26