

Survivor Supplementary Statement

Completed: **29/07/2026**

Survivor Name: **David John Graham Craig** Other Known Name: **N/A** DOB: **27/08/1962**

Status: **Priority - Low** Redress Case Ref Num: **APP552838**

Sibling/s Name & DOB: **John** - 19/04/68, **James** - 09/12/60, **Maryanne** - (aged 70),
Lillyanne - (Deceased), **Thomasina** - (age 60), **Janet** - (aged 66)

Mother: **Margaret (maiden name Dalton)** Father: **Hugh Craig**

Serious Criminal Conviction in the last 5 years: **None**

Reason for being placed in care: **Out of parental control**

1. Introduction

My name is David Craig. 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

I lost my mother to cancer when I was approximately 10 years old. I was very close to her, and one might say I was a mummy's boy. Her passing had a profound impact on me, leading to my behaviour to spiral out of control. Consequently, a panel with Ayr Social Services determined that I should be placed into care.

Over the following months/years, I was moved between the following care settings

- **Kirkmichael House Children's Home** in South Ayrshire
- **'Borstal' Detention Centre** (can't recall name but was possibly Polmont in Stirlingshire)

I will try to describe each placement as I remember it.

Kirkmichael House Children's Home

I believe I was placed in **Kirkmichael House** around 1972 aged 10 years old and remained there until I was about 15 years old.

During my time there, I experienced instances of staff members slapping me, which occurred frequently and often for no reason. I would say this was mainly the male day staff but there was around 4-5 female staff members who would also do it. I recall a guy called Mr Keene or Kean. I'm not sure of the surname spelling. I also witnessed other boys being physically harmed by the staff on a regular basis.

I would wet the bed while I was there and attempted to conceal it when making my bed in the morning. The staff would change the sheets weekly, and the woman responsible for washing them never mentioned it, as she understood the consequences for me of doing so.

At mealtimes, you were required to eat whatever was placed in front of you, or you would not eat at all and get a slap for it. Sometimes the staff would walk past you, and just as you were about to put the food in your mouth, they would slap you across the back of the head thinking it was funny. Bullying among the boys was prevalent, and the staff were aware of it, however, they did nothing to address the situation; I would say they turned a blind eye to it. I was bullied there. A lad called Robert comes to mind.

I escaped from there on two separate occasions, only to be brought back by the police. Upon my return to Kirkmichael House, I would face punishment from the headmaster, Mr. Patrick. On one occasion, after I had run away, I was subjected to name-calling and slapped by him, all in front of my peers and even in the presence of the local police, who merely stood by and allowed the incident to unfold. I didn't experience any abuse from the police; they just didn't intervene when I was being punished by 'the boss' as Mr Patrick was referred to in Kirkmichael House.

During my time in the shower, I was forced to wait in line, completely naked, alongside other boys until my name was called for my turn. I was deprived of privacy, as staff members or other boys would frequently enter the showers without warning.

I was also required to perform cleaning tasks while I was here, such as tidying up the cloakroom. If the staff didn't think you'd made a good enough job of it, they would give you a slap to your head, make it messy again and get you to start tidying up again. I'd also have to peel potatoes and prepare chips for mealtimes, yet I was never compensated for any of this work.

'Borstal' detention centre

I spent time in a detention centre aged 16 for a few months. This would have been around 1978.

We used to call the male staff there 'screws' and they would make you stand to attention or you'd get a slap or a punch. This was a regular occurrence. We'd be locked in our rooms most of the time, unless it was time for meals, morning exercise or in the afternoon when we'd have a bit of recreational time. Our rooms were more like prison cells. We didn't have a proper toilet, just a pot. Each morning we'd have to slop out the waste. We were treated worse than animals.

3. Emotional and Long-Term Impact

I cannot recall having any visits from my father during my time in Kirkmichael House, nor was I allowed to leave to see him. This was particularly difficult for me, as I had already lost my mother and had been separated from my siblings and support system. The only visit I can remember was from my oldest sister Maryanne and her boyfriend.

I felt compelled to suppress my emotions, as I had no one to confide in regarding my feelings. I just wanted to cry and get away from there. I never disclosed what I was experiencing here because I feared the consequences of doing so.

My experiences in care have profoundly affected my life. I have rarely spoken about it and often attempt to push it to the back of my mind. It's something that wasn't really talked about with my family even though they knew I was in care.

My daughter knows I was in care, but I've been quite hard on her as she grew up as I didn't want her to go through the same things if she got into any trouble. I'd been really horrible to her at times; only because it worried me her going into care. I don't remember many of the names of the staff that harmed me and don't want to. I suffer from flashbacks and have difficulties with trust and relationships. These experiences have shaped my life in ways that continue to affect me today.

4. Missing or Incomplete Records

I understand that some of the institutions involved have been unable to provide full records of my time in care. This has been difficult, but I know that my memories and experiences are valid. I am sharing what I remember because these events had a significant impact on my life.

5. 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: *David Craig*

Date: 29/07/2026