

Supplementary Personal Statement.

Name: Peter Noble

Case Ref: APP927617

DOB: 18/11/1977

Social Services/Local authority - Argyle & Bute Social Work Department (Helensburgh)
However client advises it was Strathclyde Council at the time (Social Worker - John Biden)

Childhood Address: 2 Cedar View, Roseneath, Argyll & Bute

Name of Care Home/s: Blarivaddoch, Helensburgh and Cardross Assessment Centre

Age in care: Approximately 13 – 16 years of age. Approx. time in care - 1992 - 1994

Parents Name: Elizabeth Noble (Maiden Name: Naisbet) & Steve Noble

Siblings: Michael Noble – unable to provide DOB but client advises he is about 7 years older than him (1970/1971)

Reason for going into care: Family breakdown. My mother and her partner were fighting and I got involved. Things at the home was challenging and I did not get on with him. My mother had to get social work involved, so mother placed into care. I was placed before a children's panel and then sent to Blarivaddoch.

Personal Statement

My name is PETER NOBLE. 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, and I want to explain my experiences in my own words.

I was involved with social work services in the Helensburgh area. My social worker at the time was **John Biden**, who worked for **Strathclyde Regional Council Social Work Department**. I believe this involvement began around the age of 13 maybe I think about 1991

Over the following months/years, I was moved between several care settings. These included:

- **Blarivadach Children's Home**, Shandon, near Helensburgh – approx. 5 weeks. 1991
- **Cardross Assessment Centre**, Cardross – 1991 – 1993 approx. 2 years
- **Burnside Children's Home**, Alexandria – approx. 1 year – 1993 - 1994

I will describe each placement as I remember it.

Blarivaddoch - (Residential Establishment)

This home was in a rural area near Helensburgh. The building felt intimidating and had three levels. The behaviour of some staff members was awful. I recall a couple of the other children who lived there, including Gordon Muir, Chris Campbell, Chris Evans. They encouraged fights amongst the children and took great joy in seeing us fight each other. They would give me cigarettes to hit other boys in the children's home. However, I never actually struck the child; I would just take the cigarettes and pretend to hit the boy. This made me feel upset angry and affected me. not being able to trust staff members, and not wanting to be there, the reason I ran away from the home I was mostly unhappy there and ran away several times. When I left Blarivaddoch for Cardross, I didn't receive my personal belongings, which included many sentimental items that I never got back. This was deeply upsetting.

Cardross

I entered Cardross for a 21-day assessment centre and was placed in Fruin House a holding centre. I was there for 3 weeks and then got put in Cameron House. I was supposed to stay for 3 weeks, but I ended up being there for almost 2 years. A staff member mentioned that I had been there longer than any other child. I was put in the holding unit, where I remained for approx. 2 years.

I remember this placement as being very strict. The environment felt suppressing. having 4 different units 2 for assessing 2 for holding until you left. I recall a few staff members such as Rosemary Murray, David Rodric, James Oneil, I also recall other children who lived there, including Robert Sempel, Zoe Boil, Darren can't remember his second name, too many to remember.

I recall assessments being done, but I did not always understand what they were for. The holding unit had strict rules; I couldn't open my window and was made to stay in my pyjamas all day. Then, I moved to the next unit called Carman House. Here I experienced physical assault. An incident/altercation occurred there when I went to get a cup of tea just before bedtime and was told I couldn't have one.

I made the tea anyway, and a male staff member followed me in, shoved me up against the door, proceeded to punch me really hard from behind hitting me full on to my right cheekbone the tea spilled all over me, he then proceeded to push me to the ground while a female staff helped to pinned me down, and the hot tea spilled all over me. My face was left bruised and black and blue from the impact of the punch to my face.

The staff member punched me while I was on the ground and then restrained me forcefully. There was a female staff member who came in to assist him. I felt like I couldn't breathe. I visited a GP regarding this incident to ensure it was documented in my medical records, as I had a significant bruise on my cheekbone from the event. I completed a full A4 document of the incident and raised a grievance. It was heard by the top managers; social services were involved in this and went through this with me. To date I still have not been given an outcome. Records of this should be in place.

My grievance relates to this incident, as I believe I have the right to have a drink, and, to the fact that I was supposed to be in a 3-week assessment centre but was kept in a holding unit for over a year. I feel the length of time I was in Cardross was unjust with no reasonable explanation during this time.

This made me feel angry upset and depressed. I ran away a couple of times because I could not stand it anymore.

Burnside Children's Home. -

Everything was fine within this children's home. Approximately 1 year

The building was just like a normal house setting. Staff including Colin Clark, Mary Buchanan, Irene Summers, David Corrish.

Emotional and Long-Term Impact

This has impacted my entire life; I experience nightmares related to it. In my youth, I dealt with some depression, which is also documented in my medical records. At that time, I was prescribed antidepressants. I still suffer from poor sleep and re-occurring dreams of restraint and not being in control. The lasting impact for me is I have trust issues.

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: peter noble _____

Date: _22,3, 2026_____