

Survivor Supplementary Statement

Date Completed: 10/06/2026

Survivor Name: **James Barr** Other Known Name: NA DOB: **28/12/1964**

Status: **Low Priority** Redress Case Ref Num: **APP824214**

Parents: **Kathleen Ferrier Barr & James Barr**

Sibling/s Name/s & DOB: **William Barr** - born 1963, **twin sister Agnes Barr** - 28/12/1964,

Alison Barr - born 1966, **David Barr** - born 1967, **Gerrard Barr** - born 1970 (all in care together) Serious Criminal Conviction in the last 5 years: **None**

Reason for being placed in care: **Father had deliberately broken client's leg when he was 8**

1. Introduction

My name is James Barr. 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 was involved with social work services in the Glasgow area. I believe this involvement began around 1972 when my father broke my leg in three places. It went to court then we were sent to Kames Castle in Rothesay, Isle of Bute. This was around 1972 when I was approximately 7 or 8 years of age until I was 16. I will describe this placement as I remember it.

Kames Castle in Rothesay

The initial three years were a complete nightmare. We lived in dormitories, but we weren't in the same room as our siblings. We were frequently moved around. The matron was terrible, quite unpleasant, and the staff verbally abused us daily, constantly telling us we were unworthy and similar things. It was a dreadful environment. Even if I had wanted to escape, I couldn't because it was on an island, and I didn't know anyone there. I never understood why we were taken so far from home.

Every morning, we had to line up before school to ensure we were properly dressed; if we weren't, we wouldn't receive our money for school. I attended school outside the home. We had to ensure our beds were clean and tidy, and we were responsible for cleaning the bedding. The beds had to be made neatly, like in the army. I recall an incident where I defecated in bed, and the staff made me put my nose in it. It was utterly humiliating. I remember being locked in rooms and cupboards as a punishment, sometimes for hours. This was a frequent occurrence.

We had no privacy for washing and during mealtimes, if we were caught not finishing our meals, we faced punishment or were force-fed. There was a staff member however who would hide food in her apron to prevent us from getting caught.

For the first three years, we had no weekend leave, which severely affected our relationships. Being so far from home made it difficult to maintain contact with family but my grandmother

visited once a month. One staff member would take me to her house on weekends. I would go to Glasgow to visit her family and friends, and she would bring me back on Sunday night. It wasn't until I was around 14 that they asked if I wanted to visit my parents. This had a significant impact on my mental health.

3. Emotional and Long-Term Impact

When I left the home, I felt institutionalized and was unsure of what to do. I went to a community centre for assistance. I didn't receive any support after I left. Once I reached a certain age, the social worker didn't provide any advice, and it was just goodbye. I returned to live with my mum for about a year, but I left her house because her boyfriend was abusing me.

That's when I became independent and started to handle things on my own. I realised that no one else would support me, so I took matters into my own hands. Fortunately, I was able to turn my life around, but it took a long time, and even now, all these years later, it still affects me.

We were a family in need of support, yet we were removed from our home due to ongoing abuse and placed directly into another situation where we faced more abuse. There was no way to escape it.

My experiences in care have affected me throughout my life and had a lasting impact on me. It utterly shattered my childhood. I suffer from anxiety and depression and have been on medication for my mental health for 15 years. These experiences have shaped my life in ways that continue to affect me today.

4. Missing or Incomplete Records

I understand that receiving full records of my time in care may not be possible. 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: *James Barr*

Date: 10/06/2026