

Survivor Supplementary Statement

Date completed: **06/08/2026**

Survivor Full Name: **William Ormison Japp** Other Known Name: **None**

DOB: **08/01/1970** Redress Case Ref Num: **APP201866** Status: **Low Priority**

Mother's Name: **Elizabeth Japp (Maiden name Murray)** Father's Name: **William Jaap**

Siblings Names/DOB: **Andrea Japp & Stuart Japp (does not know their DOB's. Not in care)**

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

Reason for being placed in care: **Behaviour**

1. Introduction

My name is William Jaap, and 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 Coatbridge/Summerlee social services area. Over the following months/years, I was moved between several care settings. These included:

- **Dr. Guthrie's List D residential school in Edinburgh - aged 10 approx. around 1980**
- **Bellshill Children's Home – no abuse. Cannot recall when this was/for how long**
- **St.John's List D residential school, Springboig, Glasgow – from approx. 1984-1986 for 18 months (aged 14 until 16 years)**

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

Dr. Guthrie's – Edinburgh

I was aged 10 when I was put in here and this was my most terrible experience. I was constantly punished by being belted by the staff just for talking and other petty things. I was often told I wouldn't be allowed out on weekends and was confined to a room, sometimes for 2 to 3 days, like solitary confinement. It felt like being in army barracks; there would be 12 to 14 of us in one room.

I was even yelled at just for using the toilet at night. I would be locked in a cupboard for two days, isolated, with no mattress and only a bucket for a toilet. I might get to use a shower, which could happen as infrequently as twice a week. We were treated like animals, not children.

I had to stand naked in line with all the other boys to take a shower. We had no privacy at all when washing ourselves and would be surrounded by other naked boys, which was not normal and shouldn't have been allowed. When the girls from the girls' unit came over, we were locked up so they could go swimming.

If I didn't do as they said, the staff would physically restrain me, pinning me down with force. I almost broke a finger when they twisted my hand behind my back. No medical attention was sought for the injury; they just left me in pain. They knew they could get away with these things.

The deputy head teacher, Mr. Riddicks, was just as bad and would slap me about regularly, at least once a week. The staff were always unpleasant. I escaped from there, running through Edinburgh city and across the Forth Road Bridge, and I stayed away for a few days before returning. It was strict here I had to wear their uniform. It felt like being in the army.

After leaving Dr. Guthrie's I was moved to Bellshill Children's Home, but no abuse happened there. I can't remember how long I was there for.

St. John's, Springboid List D residential school

After Dr. Guthrie's, I was moved to Springboig St. John's School. I believe this was around 1984, so I was approximately 14. One of the staff there, Mr. Mearns, would hit you with his large hands. He was nicknamed 'big hands' because his hands were shovel sized. I believe Mr. Mearns was the deputy head here.

You had to stand naked and exposed in a line waiting to shower, with no privacy. I refused to attend chapel, because I wasn't Catholic, and I was warned that I wouldn't be allowed to go out for the weekend or see my family as a punishment. They often threatened that you wouldn't see your Mum or Dad, and they did this to everyone. Mr. Mearns slapped me about once a week at least; he would always slap the back of my head. He would do it to other kids

3. Emotional and Long-Term Impact

My experiences in care have affected me throughout my life. I started drinking alcohol at a young age to cope with the trauma and feeling constant fear. I became heavily involved with heroin, but I have been clean from heroin, aside from alcohol.

I still experience flashbacks and often struggle to sleep. Certain sounds can trigger me, and I feel paranoid. I have memory loss due to the effects of the alcohol, so I have to write everything down as otherwise I'll just forget. I also sometimes hear voices.

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: *William Jaap*

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