

SUPPORT STATEMENT

SECTION A — SURVIVOR DETAILS

Survivor Name: James Whitelaw

Date of Birth: 05/10/1969

SECTION B — Supporting Person Details

Name: John Whitelaw

Relationship to Survivor: Brother

Purpose of This Statement

I am providing this statement in support of the above survivors Redress Scotland application. I know them personally and wish to offer information about their experiences they shared with me, and the impact this has had on their life.

What the Survivor shared with me

Where James was placed was a horrible, horrible place. I actually went out twice to see him and was quite annoyed. James is a deep character, and I knew something was going on in there. I thought at first somebody was sexually abusing him in there and it was eating away at me. Eventually he told me that he was getting battered daily. I can still remember it like yesterday because being his big brother I never felt so helpless in my life as that. I understand that he had to be punished for what he had done but that was way too far. James wouldn't tell me at first what was wrong with him but eventually he started to get weekend leave and come home for weekends. He was coming home and was a totally strange character, he put about 3 locks on his bedroom door and would just stay in his bedroom. There used to be around 10 of us that would knock about together before he went in, but when he was coming back on weekend leave, he wouldn't come out with us, he just kept himself to himself completely. James wouldn't even go for a haircut, so his hair was all long and he was just totally weird. Eventually I sat down with him to find out what was wrong and he eventually told me that he was getting battered. He showed me the bruises that he had on his body, and he said that this was continuous. He would be coming home on the weekends black and blue, not so much his face but all over his legs and body. I am pretty sure one of the times I was up visiting he did actually have a black eye, but I remember him playing in down and trying to say it was just from fighting with the other residents. I tried phoning the place

numerous times but 9 times out of 10 we wouldn't get an answer, they were always making excuses whenever I tried to speak to them or visit James. When I did visit James, I think the staff members who were abusing him were always nearby, it felt like they were always watching and keeping an eye on us. For instance, I couldn't go into his room to speak to him or speak to him in private at all. This is why I knew something was happening in there but initially I was concerned that they were sexually abusing him until he told me what was happening. Looking back, I wish I had gone to a solicitor at the time because he was getting battered fairly frequently. It was the mood swings that really made me think that something was happening to him. At our house his bedroom door was made of thick wood, but he had put three locks across it. You could just tell that his wee head was away. We just kept telling him you've not got that long to go and you will be home soon. After he came about, eventually we managed to get him to come out and about with us again, but he just wasn't the same boy.

Impact to the Survivor that I have observed

After he had been in there, he just became this wee recluse sitting in his room with three locks on the door not interacting with anyone. It's amazing what they had managed to do with my wee brother, they turned him into a recluse who wouldn't even open the door. Before he went in, we never had a great upbringing, but we were always out with friends kicking footballs or playing games. We would be out every night until 2/3 in the morning. After James had been in that place he just wouldn't come out, wouldn't play any of the games we had always played, he just was not interested at all. Even nowadays to get James to do something we have to drag him to do it. Before he went into care, he was always the one wanting to do things and he was always the one that kept everybody going. James was never a fighter, he got on with absolutely everybody he was some oiy, but after that he became a totally different person. Recently I tried to get him into golf but soon after he just packed it in, he just gets these mood swings where his mood gets low. In my eyes it's all related because he went from a happy go lucky boy to an absolute nervous wreck. Guys that we had known all our lives, big guys from our town, we used to go up and see the older ones and have a laugh with them, but James wouldn't come he was absolutely terrified of them. His confidence was absolutely battered. When he came out, he wasn't at home and he moved up to Inverness with our nan for a fresh start and to get away from it all. Our nan did a lot of looking after him during that because I could only do so much because I was working and our mum was a bit of an alcoholic, so she never really looked after him or got it. So, he moved up to Inverness which we thought at the time was a great thing, but I used to go up and visit him when he was living in Inverness with our nan and auntie, but he was still weird then to be honest. In Inverness he didn't have locks on the door because our nan wouldn't

have let him, but he still used to have his bed up against the door. He got out when he was 16 and I think he moved to Inverness when he was around 17/18 because we all thought it was the best thing for him.

Supporting Statement Declaration

I offer this statement to support the named survivor's application. Everything I have written is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. It reflects what I was personally told by the survivor, and what I have personally observed during the time I have known them.

Name: John Whitelaw

Date: 22/07/2026

Method: Taken over phone