

Scotland's Redress Scheme

Application form **Part 2**

Additional statement pages

Name

Mark Irvine

Date of birth

Day 18

Month 05

Year 1964

Your statement for additional care settings

In Part 1, you will have already provided information about the care settings you were abused in. By providing this information here, your case worker can join together the name of the care setting with your statement of abuse.

Q1 | What is the name or location of the relevant care setting you were abused in?

(For example, the name of the care home, or the city or region where you lived in foster care or while boarded out).

Smyllum Children's Home

Do not worry if you are uncertain about dates or time. Please provide your best estimate.

Q2 | When were you abused?

For example: a single date, an age, or an approximate time or time range.

1969 - 1971

You do not have to provide names, if you cannot remember or do not feel comfortable doing so. If you do provide a name it will be passed to Police Scotland.

Q3 | Who was involved in your abuse?

For example: a member of staff, a peer or someone outside the care setting.

The information you provide will be used by Redress Scotland to make a decision about your application. Redress Scotland will use the "Assessment framework" to help them do this, available on [gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot). Please be aware that it contains graphic descriptions of abuse.

Q4 | On the next page, please provide as much information as you can about:

- the abuse you experienced while living in this care setting
- what life was like for you during this time
- how the people responsible for your care and welfare failed to carry out that duty (within or beyond your care setting)

You can continue on additional pages if you need to.

Part 2 of the application form provides more information about what you may want to include.

Your statement for additional care settings

Following the death of my dad, my brother, sister and I were placed into care together. Losing my dad was already incredibly difficult, and at a time when we needed kindness, reassurance and protection, we were placed in an environment where I experienced fear, cruelty and physical abuse.

We lived in a dormitory run by nuns. They were harsh and frightening and would drag us out of bed and order us around. We were put into cold baths as punishment. At mealtimes, if we did not eat our vegetables, the nuns would smash our faces into our food. This was frightening and humiliating.

The physical abuse was also a regular part of my time there. I was hit repeatedly, including over my head and on different parts of my body. Often, there seemed to be no reason for it. I never understood why it was happening or what I had done wrong. As a child, I was constantly left wondering why I was being treated this way and whether I was somehow to blame.

I never felt safe there. One of the ways I tried to escape was by hiding in the orchard, sometimes for hours at a time, just to get away from the nuns. It became somewhere I could be alone and have some temporary peace from what was happening.

The effects of these experiences continued long after I left care. After leaving, I began self-harming, which continued for approximately 13 years. This shows how deeply my experiences affected me and how difficult it was to cope with what had happened.

Looking back, I was a grieving and vulnerable child who needed care, compassion and protection. Instead, I experienced fear, humiliation and violence from the people who were supposed to look after me. I carried the impact of that treatment with me for many years afterwards.