

Scotland's Redress Scheme

Application form **Part 2**

Additional statement pages

Name

Lesley West

Date of birth

Day 02

Month 09

Year 1967

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).

Whinwell 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.

1970 - 1975

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

I remember being placed here around the time I was starting school. Unlike some of my earlier time in care, I was old enough to remember what was happening to me. My memories of this placement are very clear in certain respects. Every day there felt like a horror. It was a frightening and deeply unhappy place to live.

I remember being regularly beaten and deprived of food. Being starved and beaten was, as I remember it, a daily occurrence. If I wet the bed, I would be punished by being sent straight to bed after returning home from school and given only a piece of bread to eat. I remember the matron being extremely cruel towards us. She would beat us with a shoe. I also remember being thrown into and locked in the basement area where the bins were kept. I was only a child, and I found this terrifying. There did not seem to be any reason for much of the cruelty or the punishments. My memory and feeling from that time is that she hurt us because she wanted to and appeared to take pleasure in being cruel to us. Food was regularly used as a form of punishment and control. If we did not like or could not eat the food we were given, it would be kept and given back to us at the next meal. This could continue into the following day until we ate it. On one occasion, I remember being given food that I did not like and throwing it out of the window because I did not want to eat it. The matron went outside, retrieved the food that I had thrown away and kept it. She then made me eat that same food for my breakfast the following morning. This is a particularly strong memory for me and demonstrates the way food was used to punish and humiliate me. My sister and I tried to run away from the placement on a number of occasions. We were children trying to escape what was happening to us. However, we would be caught and brought back. When this happened, I remember being beaten and then thrown back into the basement as punishment. The fact that my sister and I repeatedly tried to run away shows how unbearable I found living there. Even as a young child, I felt that trying to escape was preferable to remaining there and enduring the beatings, hunger, fear and punishment. While I was at Whinwell, an older couple would sometimes take us out. I do not remember everything that happened, but I remember them touching us inappropriately and feeling very uncomfortable around them. We were also regularly left with people we did not know and taken around in strangers' cars. As a child, I did not understand who these people were or why we were being left with them. Although my memories of this time are limited, I clearly remember feeling uncomfortable and unsafe, and those feelings have stayed with me.