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Section 1: Personal details

This information will be used to join together Part 1 and Part 3 of your application forms.

Name

Gillian Mcateer

Date of birth

Day Month Year

The next section asks you to write your statement of abuse.

Section 2: Your statement of abuse

Please refer to page 32 of the “Help to apply” guidance when filling in this form.

Please make sure that whatever way you provide your statement, you include all the information Redress Scotland needs to make a decision. You can find out more on page 35 of “Help to apply”.

You may find that writing this brings up feelings or memories. If you need support you can speak to a case worker who can refer you to further help:

- **Telephone:** 0808 175 0808 (freephone)
- **International:** +44 131 297 6500
Lines are open Monday to Thursday, from 10am to 4pm (except Scottish public holidays)
- **Email:** apply@redress-scheme.scot

Providing your statement of abuse

In Part 1, you will have provided information about any relevant care settings you were abused in.

In Part 3, you need to provide a statement about your abuse. You can choose how you want to provide your statement. You can complete Q1, Q2, Q3 and Q4. Or you can:

- submit a previous statement (for example, a copy of a statement given to the police)
- write your statement in another format that is better suited to you

How to complete this section

You may have been abused in one relevant care setting, or in several different ones.

For this part of the application form, please provide a statement about each care setting you were abused in.

For example, if you were abused in 3 relevant care settings, please provide 3 statements.

You can do this in any order that makes sense to you.

There are pages for 4 care settings included in this form. If you need more copies, you can:

- contact a case worker
- make a copy yourself
- print additional pages from mygov.scot/redress

Please remember:

- **there are no wrong answers - if Redress Scotland needs more or different information, your case worker will get in touch with you and let you know**
- **do not worry about your spelling**
- **use as much or as little space as you need to give your information - you can continue on additional pages if you want to**

Your statement for Care setting 1

Please read page 32 of the “Help to apply” guidance before you begin.

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).

Foster Care

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.

1993-1995

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.

Pheobe and ronnie walker

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.

Please read page 36 of “Help to apply” to find out more about what information you may want to include.

suffered abuse from a very young age in my family home. Throughout my childhood I was subjected to severe mental, physical, and sexual abuse. There were two separate court cases relating to the sexual abuse I endured. One of the men responsible was sent to prison. I am still unsure what happened to the second individual. Social Services were aware of what was happening to me at home and of the abuse I was suffering, yet for a long time I remained in that environment, continuing to be harmed.

Eventually, I was removed from my family and placed into foster care. I was placed with a foster family in Armadale, Phoebe and Ronnie Walker, at the age of 11, and I stayed with them for approximately two years. When I first arrived, I felt relief at being taken away from my parent, but my understanding of what a normal family life was had already been badly damaged. I had never experienced love, safety, or care at home, so this was completely unfamiliar to me.

For the first time in my life, I felt relatively safe. That feeling alone was overwhelming. I was scared, confused, and traumatised, but also relieved. However, I was never supported to talk about what had happened to me. When I tried to speak about my abuse, I was told it was not to be spoken about. I had no one to talk to, no counselling, and no safe space to process what I had endured. The trauma was simply buried and ignored.

While living with Phoebe and Ronnie Walker, I began to experience some sense of normality and comfort for the first time in my life. That stability lasted around two years, but the damage had already been done, and the lack of emotional support meant my trauma was never addressed.

Your statement for Care setting 2

Please read page 32 of the “Help to apply” guidance before you begin.

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).

edinburgh- vanderhall 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.

1995-1997

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.

Please read page 36 of “Help to apply” to find out more about what information you may want to include.

Around the age of 12–13, I was placed into Edinburgh – Vanderhall Home, where I stayed for one to two years. From the moment I arrived, I was terrified. The environment was chaotic, overwhelming, and unsafe. There were people of all different ages running around, shouting, fighting, and causing constant disruption. Reality hit me immediately. This place was horrific.

We were left to fend for ourselves. There was no protection, no structure, and no care. We were treated like criminals rather than vulnerable children. Although the staff were not physically abusive towards me, the mental abuse and neglect were extreme. I was left alone, locked away, with no one to speak to, and expected to survive amongst older, more aggressive children. It was constant fight or flight.

During this time, I was introduced to drugs, which I used to block out the memories and pain. I began self-harming, and this was ignored. I was visibly suffering and received no help, guidance, or protection. Instead of helping me, the system was pushing me towards an early grave. I was completely abandoned emotionally and mentally at a time when I was at my most vulnerable.

Your statement for Care setting 3

Please read page 32 of the “Help to apply” guidance before you begin.

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).

bathgate childrens 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.

1997-1999

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. 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.

Please read page 36 of “Help to apply” to find out more about what information you may want to include.

At around 14–15 years old, I was placed closer to home in Bathgate Children's Home, where I remained until I was 16. Being closer to home triggered overwhelming memories of my earlier abuse. This is when my PTSD fully began to surface. I experienced panic attacks, constant fear, and had no ability to control my emotions. I was deeply anxious, distressed, and unstable.

There were a small number of staff who tried to help. One staff member, Duff McDonald, who I still speak to today, genuinely cared and looked out for us. There was also a woman named Janice, who would sometimes comfort me. However, they were not always there, and they were vastly outnumbered by staff who were either ineffective or completely overwhelmed.

The home itself was completely out of control. The children ruled the care home, not the staff. There were daily fights, severe bullying, and violence from older children. I was beaten, targeted, and constantly afraid. Staff often did nothing, and at times staff themselves would get into physical confrontations with the children. I lived in a constant state of stress and fear. Underage sex, drinking, and drug use were rampant, and we were left to do this without intervention. I was groomed by other children, and because of my history of sexual abuse, I did not understand that what was happening was wrong. This was another severe failure to protect me. I was frequently found blackout drunk on the streets, yet no meaningful action was taken to help me or address the root causes of my behaviour. I was never given understanding, therapy, or guidance. I was failed at every stage.

The trauma, neglect, abuse, and exposure to violence destroyed my mental health. Growing up, my mental health was completely unmanaged, and I continue to suffer today. I have severe PTSD, anxiety, and depression. I eventually checked myself into rehabilitation to try to rebuild my life. While rehab helped me learn right from wrong and I am proud that I took that step on my own, it did not stop the memories. The drink and drugs stopped, but the trauma never did.

The impact of my childhood has followed me into adulthood. I struggle daily. I find communication extremely difficult and at one point was so anxious that I barely spoke and had to relearn how to communicate. I do not trust people. I cannot build relationships. I have always been on my own and remain single because I do not trust the world or those in it.

I am now a shell of the person I could have been. The abuse, neglect, bullying, sexual assault, and repeated failures of the care system have left permanent damage. What I endured was horrific, and the lack of protection and support has affected every part of my life, both then and now.

Your statement for Care setting 4

Please read page 32 of the “Help to apply” guidance before you begin.

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).

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.

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.

Please read page 36 of “Help to apply” to find out more about what information you may want to include.



Do you want help
with this section?

If you want help before sending in the form, you can:

- read page 32 of the “Help to apply” guidance
- contact a case worker

The next section has questions about your supporting documents.

Section 3: Supporting documents

Please provide any supporting documents you have related to your abuse in care.

You can find out more about these types of documents on page 33 of the “Help to apply” guidance.

In some cases, it may be difficult to find supporting documents. To help with this part of the application, you can:

- include supporting documents when you send this part of the form, if you already have them
- send in your form without any supporting documents – your case worker will get in touch with you and have a conversation about what you can provide

Please tick which option you have chosen:

- I am including supporting documents with my form
- I am not including supporting documents
(if you tick this, a case worker will contact you)
- I am collecting my documents and will submit them a later date

Do you want help
with this section?

If you want help before sending in the form, you can:

- read page 33 of the “Help to apply” guidance
- contact a case worker

The next section has a declaration you must sign and details about how your information is kept and shared.

Section 4: Declaration and privacy notice

In this section, you must sign your form.

For information about how Scotland's Redress Scheme will record and protect your personal information, please read the Privacy Notice for Scotland's Redress Scheme. You can find this on mygov.scot/redress.

Before you send your application you must agree to these statements:

I confirm that the details and information I have given in this application form are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I understand that I must notify Scotland's Redress Scheme of changes in my circumstances that may affect my application.

I confirm that if any of the information I gave in Part 1, Section 8 (related to previous payments and convictions) changes, I must let my case worker know.

I confirm that any documents I have provided in support of my application are genuine and any copy is a true copy of the original. I understand that if I provide a document which is not genuine, I may be subject to court proceedings.

I understand that if I give false or misleading information in support of my application or make a fraudulent application I may:

- be subject to court proceedings
- have to re-pay any money I was not entitled to

I confirm I have read and understood the Privacy Notice for Scotland's Redress Scheme which explains how the information I provide will be lawfully used and stored.

Your signature

Date

Next steps

This is the end of Part 3. You do not need to submit your forms all at once. Once you are ready, you can submit your forms by email.

Afterwards, a case worker will contact you to confirm:

- they have received your application
- if they have any follow up questions
- next steps

By email

Please submit your application and any relevant documents to:

[**apply@redress-scheme.scot**](mailto:apply@redress-scheme.scot)

If you would like to contact a case worker

Please use these details to contact a case worker:

- **Telephone:** 0808 175 0808 (freephone)
- **International:** +44 131 297 6500
Lines are open Monday to Thursday, from 10am to 4pm
(except Scottish public holidays)
- **Email:** [**apply@redress-scheme.scot**](mailto:apply@redress-scheme.scot)