

WITNESS STATEMENT OF STEVEN MCCULLOCH

Application to The Scottish Redress Scheme

Applicant: Steven Mcculloch

Date of Birth: 23 February 1992

Application Reference: APP461289

Support Person Present: no

Background

1. My name is Steven Mcculloch. My name as a child was Steven Mcculloch.
2. My address is 1/1 46 Galloway Street, Glasgow, G21 3SX.
3. I make this statement in support of my application The Scottish Redress Scheme.
4. The contents of this statement are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
5. Where I cannot remember exact dates or details, I have made this clear.
6. I confirm I have provided as much detail as I am able to recall.
7. I understand that this statement will be considered as part of my application, together with my application forms and any supporting documents or records provided.
8. Where necessary, I have exhibited extracts of the supporting documents obtained to the statement to support my application.
9. I am happy for this statement to be submitted to the Scottish Redress Inquiry.
10. I do not need any support to conduct this statement today and I do not need anybody with me to complete the statement.
11. I understand the purpose of this statement and that it is in support of my Scottish Redress Application.
12. I was placed into care whilst under the age of 16. The care setting was based in Scotland.
13. At the time, I was living in a Foster care setting as part of the care arrangements
14. I was approximately 7 years old when I went into care.
15. From what I remember, the reason we got placed into care was because my mother could not look after me.
16. The care settings I was placed in was with foster parents Mrs Elizabeth Meechan, John and Isobel Ross, Linda and Robert Adam (Rab)

Life Before Care and Entry Into Care

17. I grew up in a place called Grathamlock with my mother and sister then went to live with my aunt and uncle. After this I went to live with my father after trying to run away.
18. My life before care was not great, my mother suffered from bipolar, could care for me and my sister and attempted to take her own life.
19. Home life with my aunt and uncle was not much better, I spent most of my time locked in my bedroom. I do not remember much of my time here other than trying to run away.
20. I don't remember much of my time spent with my father, just that he had a new girlfriend that didn't like us so this would cause arguments.
21. Me and my sister were placed in to care together, my other siblings were the children of my dad's girlfriend.
22. I was 7 years old when I went into care. I was very uncomfortable because I was being put with people I do not know, it wasn't the greatest feeling.
23. I did not have any learning difficulties, disabilities or any other relevant health backgrounds that I knew of.
24. The local authority placed me into care with my sister. I was placed into care to my understanding due to my family not being able to look after me.

Detailed Account of Each Placement

Mrs Meechan, 948 Cumbernauld Road, Glasgow, G33 2QR, 27 Aug 1999 - 2 Dec 1999

25. I was placed in foster care with Mrs Meechan by the local authority care on the 27th of Aug 1992 at 7 years old.
26. I stayed here for 4 months before moving again as this was just a temporary placement until permanent was found.
27. Daily life here was brilliant, you would get up to go to school, come back and be fed.
28. We were allowed to go out and play, there was a lot of freedom.
29. There was always food provided for every meal and snack and stuff.
30. We were provided with clean clothing and basic hygiene essentials
31. Mrs Meechan treated me and my sister brilliant, she treated us as if we were her own kids.
32. Nothing happened that I would now consider abuse at my time placed in care with Mrs Meechan.

John and Isabel Ross, 361 Ashgill Road, Glasgow, G22 7HN, 2 DEC 1999 - April 2004
'Glasgow Social work involvement'

33. I was placed into foster care with my sister with John and Isabel Ross by Glasgow Social Work on the 2nd of December 1999.

34. I stayed here for approximately 4 years.

35. Daily life here wasn't great, we were stuck in our rooms locked away as if we were ruled with fear.

36. The clothing that we got there would be too small and the trampiest of clothing, the type of things that would get you bullied for your clothing.

37. When it came to dinners they would purposely make us things that we didn't like and force us to eat them to the point we were physically sick.

38. We were allowed contact with our mother but they would sit and monitor this to make sure we would not tell her anything that was happening in the house.

39. We would be put to bed very early like 5pm and were not allowed back out until the morning, we were not even allowed out of the room to use the bathroom.

40. I occasionally had to sleep sitting up in a chair due to them not changing the sheets after bed wetting.

41. They had an older boy there that they treated completely different to me and my sister, he would beat me up in the garden and Isabel and John would stand there and watch, even egg him on to do it,

42. As a punishment I was locked in a room with the lightbulb taken away so we had to sit and sleep in complete darkness.

43. The other older boy there was treated much better than us like we were different.

44. John and Isabel would try to turn me and my sister against our mother by telling us that we were the reason our mum tried to commit suicide, at the time I did not know that this was emotional abuse.

45. The main people involved and responsible was John and Isabel Ross, they were just evil people.

46. The older boy that was treated differently to us was called David Lesley,

47. The reason I was moved from here is because I got punched in the face by John Ross after I had bumped into something in the garage and knocked it over by accident. John then came out full of anger and punched me in the face. After this I ran up into the house up to my room.

48. This only happened once but this had caused me to be moved from there,

49. I was wetting the bed a lot I think out of nervousness and that caused a lot of anger that would cause me to punch myself in the face from it building up.

50. My sister went through the same sort of things.

51. They just had a dislike for me and my sister and the other boy David Lesley witnessed all of this but he was their favoured child and just a bully.

52. We were warned by John and Isabel that if we told anyone about what was happening there they would send us away to a children's prison or somewhere much worse.

53. The only way I can describe this foster setting to my last is like going from heaven to hell.

**Linda and Robert Adam (Rab) 27 Harbour Place, Burntisland, Fife, KY3 9DP, April 2004
- 26 Oct 2009, Glasgow City council**

54. I was placed with Linda and Robert Adam around April 2004.

55. I stayed here for approximately 5 years.

56. My daily life here was brilliant.

57. We would go as a family on bike rides and family holidays.

58. We had strict wake up times for when we had school.

59. They would take me to the football club after school.

60. We would always be provided with the most up to date clothes and trends.

61. They treated me brilliantly, they had a son there that you could say we were like brothers.

62. Nothing happened at this foster care setting that I would not consider as abuse.

63. This placement was a lot different, they actually made me feel like I was part of the family.

**Unnamed Foster Parents, 8 Hazelhead Drive, Kinghorn, 26 Oct 2009 - 18 Nov 2009,
Glasgow city council**

64. I was placed with this foster family on the 26th of October.

65. This was a temporary foster setting lasting only 1 month.

66. Life here was fine, I was much older here and had freedom to become an adult.

67. I was treated brilliantly here by the foster mother and her son.

68. Nothing happened at this foster care setting that I would consider abuse.

69. Here, I had the freedom and independence to do my own stuff which helped me to become an adult.

People involved, Witnesses, Siblings, Institutional knowledge and Reporting.

70. The main people responsible for the abuse I suffered were John and Isabel Ross and the foster child there David Lesley.

71. I witnessed that my sister and two other girls there were not treated great there either.

72. I do not believe that the institutions knew what was happening there.

73. Our complaints would just get brushed off, we would be threatened to not tell anyone about the things happening there.

74. I never reported the abuse to police, an inquiry, a professional or any authority as we were threatened to not do so.

75. My sister reported John hitting me to the social worker after I told her about it when I was put on restbite as John and Isabel were going on holiday.

Movement between placements and leaving care

76. I moved from John and Isabel Ross' placement as they were going on holiday, then I was put on restbite, that's when I told my sister that John had hit me.

77. My sister then reported John hitting me to the social worker and we were moved.

78. I remember running away from Linda and Rab just due to the abuse I had suffered previously, this made me a very emotional child.

79. I went into a supported lodging house with a couple where I had my own room sort of like a shared house to help with my independence.

80. My circumstances were not great, I received a lack of help after leaving care as to no direction or help to get work.

Impact on life Past/Present/Future

81. The abuse I had suffered affected my confidence and trust in people, it really made me a shell of myself.

82. I only get 3 or 4 hours of sleep every night for as long as i can remember.

83. It affected my education because I was very bad in school.

84. I don't express emotions well, like occasionally when my partner is having a bad day i just feel awkward and don't know how to deal with emotion.

85. I think I do have anxiety, I do not leave the house and do not talk to people or doctors unless I absolutely have to.

86. I still have nightmares of being there and wake up in a panic and a sweat.

87. The memories are so bad I will not have Sunday dinner with my family because it brings back memories of being forced to eat them each Sunday with plates of carrots and other things we did not like.
88. I have not had any alcohol or substance abuse but when i drink i am not well for weeks afterwards.
89. The illness from drinking alcohol makes me not be able to make sense of the tv or anything.
90. I spoke to my doctor and he said it's a severe past trauma that comes out when I drink alcohol.
91. The abuse has affected my life a lot. I have no friends that I go out with because I do not trust people to talk to them.
92. Even the thought of leaving the house puts me in a panic, I can't even just go to the park with my kids.
93. This affected my ability to get a job and look for work as I am currently on benefits.
94. I don't sleep until 4am and wake up at 8am.
95. I can not fall asleep without being that tired when watching something I just pass out.
96. I do not leave the house so I avoid most if not all situations.
97. One time I saw John Ross when I was shopping in Asda and I just froze with rage. My partner had to drop all the shopping and get me out of the shop.
98. I feel like this has impacted everything with not leaving the house.
99. It affected who I am today and impacted the people around me after I went through the abuse.
100. I have not received counselling, therapy, mental health, addiction, GP, hospital or any other professional support.
101. I think I went to see a psychiatrist but I do not remember this at all.
102. I have never been diagnosed with any relevant conditions or taken any related medication as I refuse to go to the doctor.
103. I have received medical support, the fear of john and isabel's punishments made us not speak up at all.

Supporting Evidence & Records

104. I understand that records and documents may be considered alongside this statement. I have exhibited, as necessary, documents to this statement.

105. I have also provided a bundle of evidence in addition to this statement, these are all of the relevant documents my legal representatives have been able to obtain on my behalf, from relevant institutions, local authorities and medical practices.

106. Some records may be incomplete, missing or unavailable due to the passage of time. Where records are missing, I ask that my own account still be considered carefully. I have done all in my power, with the assistance of my legal representative, to obtain and provide as much evidence as possible.

107. I have had my legal representative to redact any information that's not relevant to my Scottish Redress Application.

Difficulties with Memory and Gaps in Evidence

108. The events described happened many years ago. Some dates, names and details are difficult for me to remember.

109. My memory has also been affected by the trauma of what happened to me.

110. Where I have used approximate dates or descriptions, I have done so honestly and to the best of my recollection.

111. I have not intentionally exaggerated or included anything that I do not believe to be true.

Why Am I Applying to the Scottish Redress Scheme & Final statement

112. I am hoping this will give my family financial stability. Hopefully this helps other people as well. Hopefully this helps other people as well.

113. An acknowledgment doesn't change what happened so I don't know what it would mean to me.

114. I think I covered everything that I want Redress to understand what happened.

115. I have never made a previous civil claim, criminal injury claim, Redress application, advance payment application, complaint, police report, inquiry statement, or claim to another scheme about this abuse.

116. I have never received any payment, apology, response or settlement in respect of my Scottish Redress Claim or abuse.

117. I have never signed any waiver, settlement agreement, discharge, or acceptance form in respect of my Scottish Redress Claim or abuse.

118. I have tried to provide a full and honest account of my experiences, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

119. I ask that Redress Scotland considers this statement, my application forms, and the supporting evidence I have submitted when determining my application.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Name:

Signed:

Dated: