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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**

Stephen Hart

**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](mailto: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](https://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).

Southhannah residential school

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.

1988-1995

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.

William Hunter, Ian lang

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.

I was around seven and a half years old when I was taken to a children's panel hearing. I remember sitting there and watching adults ask my mum to give up one of her children. I did not fully understand what was happening, but I understood enough to know that I was the one being chosen. That moment has stayed with me my whole life. I felt rejected, unwanted and powerless. I had no say. I was just a child.

After that panel, I was taken to Southhannah Residential School in Largs. I was only seven and a half years old. I was extremely emotional, frightened and confused. I had never been away from home like that before. I did not understand why I was there. No one explained anything to me in a way I could understand. From the moment I arrived, I felt unsafe.

This is where the abuse started.

Abuse at Southhannah Residential School (Ages 7½ to 14)

Almost immediately, I was targeted by older boys. Every single day felt like survival. I lived in constant fight-or-flight mode. I was beaten regularly, often black and blue. The older boys would attack me for no reason. They punched me, kicked me, and humiliated me. I tried to stay out of sight. I would isolate myself and hide to try and avoid the violence, but they would find me. They seemed to enjoy tormenting me. They made fun of me constantly and treated me like I was less than human.

The staff were often outnumbered, but in my experience they frequently stood by and allowed it to happen. Many times they watched and did nothing. We were left to fend for ourselves. The violence was out of control. There was no proper protection.

One of the most traumatic incidents I will never forget involved an older boy named William Hunter. He was particularly cruel to me, and his friends joined in. One day, they dragged me to a bridge. I was tied to the bridge with wire around my hands and feet. I was tortured and beaten while restrained. I was terrified. I genuinely believed I might die that day. I felt completely helpless. One of the only times I was ever helped was by Ian Lang, who I believe was an assistant manager at the time. He intervened and helped me during that incident. That stands out in my memory because it was so rare for any adult to step in and protect me.

For the entire seven years I was at Southhannah, I was bullied relentlessly. Over time, I became a shell of myself. My personality changed. I stopped being a normal, playful child. I became anxious, withdrawn and hyper-aware of everything around me. I was always preparing for impact — physically and mentally. I could not relax. Even at seven or eight years old, I was living in constant fear.

Family visits were often stopped. That removed my only connection to safety and comfort. I felt completely abandoned. I had no safe adult to cry to, no one to tell what was happening. I learned very early that speaking up did not change anything.

There was also a terrifying incident involving an assistant teacher at the school, which was on the same grounds. One day, the teacher locked and barricaded us into a room and began severely beating us. We were screaming and crying for help. We were smashing the windows trying to escape because we were so frightened. Eventually, the headteacher had to boot the door down to get in. It was absolute chaos and terror. I remember feeling trapped and believing we were not going to get out safely.

In addition to the physical and emotional abuse, I was sexually assaulted by older boys during my time at Southhannah. They would isolate me, get me alone in rooms, and sexually assault me. I was extremely vulnerable. I was young, frightened and already being physically abused daily. I felt shame, confusion and deep fear. I did not understand why this was happening to me. I carried that in silence.

For seven years, I endured this environment. Seven years of violence, humiliation, fear and sexual abuse during what should have been my childhood.

## 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).

Hillside Care 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.

See Attached

## 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).

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.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin blue border, intended for the user to write their statement for Care setting 3. The box occupies most of the page area below the header.

## 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](https://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)

# Statement Addendum

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**Client Name:** Stephen Hart  
**Date of Birth:** 11/02/1981  
**Care Setting:** Hillside Care Home  
**Dates:** 1995-1997  
**Persons Involved:**

## Full Statement

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Hillside Care Home (Around Age 14 to 16)

When I was around fourteen, I was moved to Hillside Care Home. Again, nothing was properly explained to me. I was just taken there. I remember nearly being in a serious car accident on the way there. Even that journey felt unsafe and chaotic. I will never forget it.

On the first day I arrived, the atmosphere was frightening. The children were running around in a feral way. My panic mode activated immediately. I recognised the signs — this was going to be the same or worse.

That first night, I had to defend myself again as older boys attacked me. It felt like history repeating itself. No matter where I went, I was victimised. I felt hunted.

The older boys at Hillside were vicious. They would attack me in groups, beating me black and blue, punching and kicking me in the stomach and body. Staff witnessed these assaults and did not intervene properly. At times it felt like entertainment to them. Their inaction made me feel worthless and invisible.

The sexual abuse continued there. I was again targeted and assaulted. I was taken into the hills by other boys and sexually assaulted. There was no escape. I felt completely trapped in a system that was supposed to protect me but instead exposed me to repeated harm.

Weekend visits were stopped again. By this point, I had learned not to speak up. I believed there was no point. I had tried to survive by fighting back when attacked. I was in constant fight-or-flight mode. I never truly won any of these fights, but I refused to completely give up because defending myself was the only control I had.

Staff would physically restrain me. On some occasions, four members of staff would sit on me at once. I could not breathe properly. They would laugh when my breath was taken away. That humiliation and fear — being pinned down, unable to breathe, while adults laughed — confirmed to me that there was no help

coming. The very people responsible for my safety were part of the harm.

I remained there until I turned sixteen and then left to go into a hostel.

### Long-Term Impact on My Mental Health

My entire childhood was shaped by torture, bullying, physical assault and sexual abuse. I did not grow up feeling safe, loved or protected. I grew up in survival mode.

As a result, I suffer from severe PTSD. I am still in fight-or-flight mode to this day. My body reacts to stress as if I am about to be attacked. Loud noises, confrontation, or even normal disagreements can trigger intense anxiety. I struggle with hypervigilance — I am constantly scanning for danger.

I have experienced suicidal thoughts and continue to struggle deeply with my mental health. I find it extremely difficult to trust people. I struggle to form and maintain healthy relationships. I either push people away or feel constantly on edge around them. I have difficulty regulating my emotions. I experience flashbacks, nightmares and intrusive memories of the abuse.

I was bullied to the point that my personality changed permanently. I became guarded, defensive and emotionally numb in many situations. I struggle with feelings of worthlessness and shame that stem from being repeatedly abused and not protected.

Every day is a struggle. The child who had to prepare for impact never really stopped preparing. Even now, as an adult, my nervous system does not switch off. I feel like I am still that seven-year-old boy trying to survive in a hostile environment.

The abuse I experienced at Southhannah Residential School and Hillside Care Home has affected every aspect of my life — my mental health, my relationships, my sense of safety, and my ability to feel at peace.

These experiences were not isolated incidents. They were years of sustained physical, emotional and sexual abuse, combined with neglect and failure of care. The adults who were responsible for my wellbeing did not protect me. In many cases, they allowed the abuse or directly contributed to it.

I continue to live with the consequences of what happened to me as a child.