

Scotland's Redress Scheme

Application form **Part 2**

Additional statement pages

Name

Margaret Arnott

Date of birth

Day 24 Month 08 Year 1962

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).

Redding House 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.

1975 - 1976

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

My time here was absolutely horrible. We were made to feel as though we were unwanted. There was no kindness, warmth or affection shown towards us, and I constantly felt as though nobody wanted us there. We had already been through so much before coming into care, but instead of receiving comfort and support, we were made to feel even more alone. I remember being forced to eat food that I found disgusting. We were not given things like toys or belongings that would have brought us any comfort. My younger brother had practically nothing. Although my home life had been very difficult, in some ways this place felt even worse because of how lonely and unwanted they made us feel. The staff were not physically aggressive towards us, but there was simply no care or compassion. We were children who had been abandoned and were going through an incredibly difficult time, yet it felt as though nobody cared about what we were experiencing.

Every Sunday, we had to look our best for what I remember as "viewings". Each week we would be presented in this way, and then we would not be chosen. As the weeks went by, the feeling of repeatedly not being chosen affected me deeply. It reinforced the feeling that I was unwanted, and the impact of that has stayed with me to this day. My social worker, Mr Thain, was particularly difficult for me. He told us that our mother hated us, wished we were dead and wanted nothing to do with us. I was only a child, and hearing something so devastating had a serious effect on me and contributed to me beginning to self-harm. Later finding out that what he had told us about our mother's feelings was true was extremely damaging, but regardless of the circumstances, I do not believe we should ever have been told something like that in such a cruel and direct way. We were vulnerable children and needed support in understanding what was happening to us. After around a year, on my birthday, my mother came to the home and took my brother and me away. As I understand it, she did not have permission or authority to take us, yet nobody appeared to intervene or come looking for us afterwards. I remember calling some of the girls I had become friends with at the home and telling them where I was. I did this hoping that a member of staff would overhear, realise where we were and come to help us. Nobody came. It felt as though once we had left, we were simply out of sight and out of mind.

This was particularly difficult because my mother had previously abandoned us, which was part of the reason we had ended up in care in the first place. Despite everything that had happened, we were allowed to return to an unsafe situation without anyone appearing to protect us or make sure that we were safe. I felt completely abandoned all over again.

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