

MMA

LEGAL

11th August 2026

Redress Scotland

apply@redress-scheme.scot

By email/post: Email

Re: Scottish Redress Application - Mr Leon James Gratton

DOB: 17 March 1975

Application Reference: APP288097

**Building B
23 Goodlass Road
Speke
Liverpool
L24 9HJ**

T: 0161 570 0550

Dear Sir/Madam,

Covering Letter - Witness Statement

We write in connection with the above Scottish Redress application. Please find enclosed the Witness Statement of Mr Leon James Gratton, submitted in support of his application.

The purpose of the witness statement is to provide Mr Gratton's own account of his childhood care placements, the abuse and neglect he describes experiencing while in care, and the impact this has had on his childhood and adult life. The statement should be considered alongside the application form and any supporting evidence obtained for the application.

The statement explains that Mr Gratton entered care at approximately 14 or 15 years old. It records his background before care, the circumstances of his entry into care, and his placements at Comiston Children's Home and Moredun Adolescent Unit in 1991.

In summary, the statement describes Mr Gratton's account of emotional abuse and physical mistreatment at Comiston Children's Home, as well as incidents involving other children and allegations concerning staff conduct. It also records that he tried to raise what was happening but felt that nothing happened and that he was ignored.

T

he statement records no abuse at Moredun Adolescent Unit. It sets out the impact Mr Gratton attributes to his experiences in care, including substance and alcohol misuse, social isolation, poor sleep, anxiety, paranoia, nightmares, difficulties with education and finances, and the mental-health support he has received.

Mr Gratton states that records may exist which support his account, including records concerning self-harm and substance abuse, and he refers to Amanda White and Weston House. However, he did not identify specific supporting exhibits, letters, photographs, reports or an existing evidence bundle during the interview. Accordingly, no separate supporting exhibits are described in this covering letter.

We respectfully request that Redress Scotland considers the enclosed witness statement, application documents and any supporting evidence subsequently obtained when determining Mr Gratton's application.

Brief overview of enclosed document

Section / document part	Brief contents
Cover Letter	A cover letter from us addressing key issues in support of our client's Scottish Redress application.
Witness statement	Mr Gratton's personal account in support of his Scottish Redress application.
Background and entry into care	Personal background, life before care, reasons for entering care and age at entry.
Care placement account	Account of Comiston Children's Home and Moredun Adolescent Unit, including dates, daily life, staff conduct and movement between placements.
Abuse, neglect and reporting	Description of alleged emotional abuse, physical mistreatment, incidents involving other children, staff conduct and attempts to report concerns.
Impact evidence	Effect on childhood and adult life, including mental health, sleep, substance and alcohol misuse, isolation, education, finances and support/treatment.
Potential supporting records	The statement refers to possible records concerning self-harm and substance abuse, including references to Amanda White and Weston House; no evidence bundle was identified as already obtained.

Yours faithfully,

Leah Pearson - Claims Handler

**Investigations Team
MMA Legal**

WITNESS STATEMENT OF MR LEON JAMES GRATTON

Application to the Scottish Redress Scheme

Applicant: Mr Leon James Gratton

Date of Birth: 17/03/1975

Application reference number: APP288097

Background

1. My name is Mr Leon James Gratton.
2. My address is 3 Makgill Row, Cupar, Fife, KY15 5SA
3. My date of birth is 17 March 1975.
4. My Scottish Redress application reference is APP288097.
5. I make this statement in support of my application to the Scottish Redress Scheme.
6. My statement interview took place by telephone on 7 August 2026. Daniel Asprey was the interviewer and MMA Legal was recorded as my legal representative.
7. I confirmed that I was comfortable and happy to continue and that I understood the purpose of the statement and agreed that it could be used for my Scottish Redress application and supporting evidence.

Life Before Care

8. I grew up in Wester Hailes, Edinburgh, with my mother and my mother's partner, Raymond Jordan.
9. My home life was hell, with constant arguments.
10. I do not have siblings from whom I was separated.

Entry into Care

12. I put myself into care because I could not deal with my mother any more and I was scared for my life.
13. I was about 14 or 15 years old when I first entered care. I felt scared and apprehensive.

A Detailed Description of Each Placement

Comiston Children's Home

16. Comiston was a big house with many other children. **"EXHIBIT 1"**
17. It was clean, but it had many damaged children.
18. I was there for about five or six months.
19. I was given basic hygiene items to wash and cereal every day.
20. Bedtime was before 10.00 pm and I had to get up before 8.00 am.

21. I was not provided with clothing.
22. There was a family meeting every week.
23. One of the other children attacked me and tried to choke me, the Staff pulled the child off me and the child was removed from the home.
24. There were not many punishments but cigarettes could be taken away and if someone was acting 'crazy', they could be locked in a meeting room.
25. I experienced emotional abuse, I remember a worker called Coral.
26. When girls ran away, they sometimes returned with cuts on their wrists., Coral would tell girls to 'do the job properly', referring to the cuts on their wrists.
27. I remember that one of the girls was having a bath and that a worker, Adam Mccage threw a radio into the bath with her, I had to fish it out with my hands.
28. One of the workers would dig their knuckles into my ribs.
29. I also said that Jimmy Cairns would tell us about being raped in the street by his dad and that nothing happened.
30. The incidents happened once or twice a week and became worse.
31. This was the reason I was moved to Moredun.
32. My behaviour changed, I did not attend school, skipped school all day and drank.
33. Jimmy Kearns and Adam Mccage were workers who would get me to score dope for them.
34. I told my friends what was happening and they would come round while it was happening.
35. I have not seen them for many years.

Moredun Adolescent Unit

29. Moredun was a residential unit that was supposed to move me towards getting my own house.
- "EXHIBIT 2"**
30. I worked in the morning until 4.00 pm.
 31. I smoked a lot of dope and had to buy my own food.
 32. Workers took my money for food so that they could buy food for me because I was not getting enough nutrients.
 33. No clothing was provided.
 34. I had my own clothes and could wash them using the washing machine and tumble dryer.
 35. Some of the other children were all right and some were not, same about the staff.
 34. I was kicked out for smoking dope.

People Involved, Reporting and Institutional Knowledge

35. Across the placements, the main people involved were Andrew Mccaig and Jimmy Cairns.
36. Other children were affected.
37. It was definitely happening, we were being taken to school on drugs.

- 38. I don't think that the wider institution knew what was happening, only Andrew and Jimmy knew.
- 39. When we spoke up, we were ignored.
- 40. I tried to explain what was happening, but nothing happened.
- 41. I also tried to speak to my mother, but she would not listen.

Movement Between Placements and Leaving Care

- 40. I was not told why I was moved from Comiston to Moredun.
- 41. I was removed from Moredun because I was considered too old for it.
- 42. I ran away a couple of times.
- 43. I left care before I was 16. **"EXHIBIT 3"**
- 44. I stayed with my mother until I obtained a flat.
- 45. I tried to find other places, but I was not accepted because I was too young.

Impact on My Life

- 46. At the time, I did not feel safe.
- 47. I had no confidence, hardly slept and was placed in a psychiatric care unit when I was 18.
- 48. The experience affected all aspects of my life.
- 48. I began abusing substances and alcohol while I was in care, and the abuse became worse and worse. **"EXHIBIT 4"**
- 49. I was isolated for most of my life.
- 50. I was married to a social worker.
- 51. I did not find her helpful and felt that she tried to blame my family for my problems.
- 52. My finances have been poor for years, I have had no education.
- 53. I am scared to leave my house and constantly look over my shoulder.
- 54. I experience paranoia and anxiety and described myself as schizophrenic and I avoid most situations. **" EXHIBIT 5"**
- 55. I have nightmares and stay awake every night struggling to sleep because I feel as though I am going to die.
- 56. I wake from nightmares about people raping me.
- 57. I believe that, if this had not happened, I would be healthy and working and would be able to stop abusing drugs.
- 58. I was raped in the street on the way back from my granddad's.

Support and Treatment

- 56. I have received support from a mental-health hospital and a psychiatric care unit at the Royal Edinburgh.
- 57. I reported diagnoses or conditions of diabetes, high cholesterol and a mild cardiac infarction.

58. I have schizophrenia. **"EXHIBIT 6"**
59. I currently receive one hour of help each day from people who assist me to cook, clean and tidy up.
60. I can contact my stepdad or my nurse for support.

Evidence and Supporting Information

60. I understand that records and documents may be considered alongside this statement. I have exhibited, as necessary, documents to this statement.
61. 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.
62. 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.
63. 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

64. The events described happened many years ago. Some dates, names and details are difficult for me to remember.
65. My memory has also been affected by the trauma of what happened to me.
66. Where I have used approximate dates or descriptions, I have done so honestly and to the best of my recollection.
67. I have not intentionally exaggerated or included anything that I do not believe to be true.

Previous claims, applications or payments

68. I have not previously made any civil claim, criminal injuries claim, Redress application, complaint, police report, inquiry statement or claim to another scheme about this abuse.
69. I have not received any payment, apology, settlement or decision, or signed any waiver/discharge.

Why I Am Applying to the Scottish Redress Scheme

67. I am applying because I think people should know how shocking it was there and in every other care home where it was happening.
68. Acknowledgement would give me 'a bit of sanity left'.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

Name: Mr Leon James Gratton

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

EXHIBIT 1

Karna Groun

LOTHIAN REGIONAL COUNCIL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK
CHILD IN CARE REVIEW REPORT

CHILD'S NAME: LEON GRATTON
 REVIEW DATE: 13th March 1991 VENUE: Comiston Children's Unit
 DATE OF BIRTH: 17.3.75
 TYPE OF REVIEW:

CURRENT PLACEMENT:

Address: Home: 49/3 Wester Hailes Park
 Placement: Comiston Children's Unit

Type of Placement: Group A Children's Home
 Name of Carer/Parent:
 Date of Placement: 22nd January 1991

EXHIBIT 2

LOTHIAN REGIONAL COUNCIL - DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK
 CHANGE OF CIRCUMSTANCE AND ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Date of change/
 25/6/91

Area Office	Social Worker <i>G. Carter</i>	Reference Number (children only)	
Surname (client) <i>GRATTON</i>	Sex	DOB	Religion
Forename(s) <i>LEON</i>	Name of School/Employer		
Also known as	Address of School/Employer		
Present Address (before change) and name of foster parent or carer if appropriate <i>10 Comiston C.M.</i>			
New Address (after change) and name of foster parent or carer if appropriate <i>Morecambe Adolescent Unit</i>			
Statutory Authority before change	Act	Section	

EXHIBIT 3

 LOTHIAN REGIONAL COUNCIL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK		
YOUNG PERSON LEAVING CARE <i>Application for Material Provision</i>		
Child's Name LEON GRATTON		Date of Birth 17.3.75
Date Received into Care 21 January 1991	If Discharged from Care. Date Discharged 18 October 1991	Length of time in Care 9 months

EXHIBIT 4

12-Sept-1993 *****
 Psychotic episode NOS
 - 4/12 admission

24-Mar-1993 *****
 Misuse of Methadone unspecified

24-Mar-1993 *****
 Accidental poisoning by lysergide, LSD

30-Dec-1992 *****
 Misuse of Cocaine unspecified

30-Dec-1992 *****
 Misuse of drugs NOS

30-Dec-1992 *****
 Misuse of Amphetamines unspecified

EXHIBIT 5

28-Jun-2004 *****
 Schizophrenia NOS

01-Nov-2000 *****
 Borderline personality disorder

EXHIBIT 6

25-Jun-2020 *** Bank Street Medical Group Main Surgery**

Problem Schizophrenia NOS