

STREAMLINED WITNESS STATEMENT INTERVIEW TEMPLATE

Application to the Scottish Redress Scheme | Target interview time: 45-60 minutes

How to keep the call within one hour: Prefill dates, placements and record-based information before the call. Ask the short core questions first. Only use the detailed prompt bank where the client identifies that type of harm. Do not read every example aloud. Where the same pattern occurred at more than one institution, record what was the same and ask only what was different. At 55 minutes, finish the current incident, complete the welfare check and record any follow-up action rather than rushing sensitive evidence.

Suggested time plan

Stage	Target time	Approach
Opening and consent	3 minutes	Confirm welfare, control of the meeting and consent.
Background and entry into care	7 minutes	Ask once for the whole statement, not for each placement.
Chronology	5 minutes	Confirm the prefilled placement list and correct any gaps.
Placements and harm	25-30 minutes	Use one compact placement sheet per institution; relevant prompts only.
Impact, support and evidence	10-12 minutes	Ask once across the whole life course.
Reason for applying and close	3-5 minutes	Final information and welfare check.

Client and application details - prefill before the call

Question / prompt	Response / notes
Applicant full name	Mr Leon James Gratton
Date of birth	17/03/1975
Current address	3 Makgill Row
Application reference	APP288097
Statement taker / interviewer	Daniel Asprey
Date and method of meeting	07/08/2026 - Phone call
Legal representative / organisation	MMA Legal
Known support needs or adjustments	n/a

1. Opening and consent

Suggested opening: You are in control of this meeting. You may take a break, skip a question or ask me to reword anything. Some questions may be upsetting because they concern your time in care and its impact.

Question / prompt	Response / notes
Are you comfortable and happy to continue today?	y
Do you need anyone with you, a break or any other adjustment?	y
Do you understand the purpose of the statement and agree that it may be used for your Scottish Redress application and supporting evidence?	y

2. Personal background and entry into care

Question / prompt	Response / notes
Where did you grow up, and who lived with you before care?	Wester hailes edinburgh, with mother, mothers partner raymond jordan
What was home life like before care? Include any family, health, education or social work difficulties that are relevant.	Hell. constant arguments, no mental health issues and no social work difficulties
How did you come to enter care, who made the decision, and were you told why?	Put myself into care because couldnt deal with my mother anymore, i was scared for my life
Did you have siblings, and were you separated from any of them?	no
How old were you when you first entered care, and how did you feel at the time?	14/15 scared and apprehensive
Is there anything important about your childhood health, learning needs, vulnerability or name history that should be recorded?	no

3. Care placement chronology - confirm rather than rebuild on the call

Efficiency rule: Use records to prefill this table. Read the list back to the client and ask whether anything is missing or incorrect. A return home may be included where it helps explain the sequence.

No.	Care setting / institution	Location	Approx. dates / age	Placing authority	Notes / source
1	Comiston Childrens Home	Oxscounds	21 Jan 1991 - 19 June 1991/ 14 years old	Lothian Regional Council Social Work	
2	Moredun Adolescent Unit	Edinburgh	19 June 1991 - 18 Oct 1991	Lothian Regional Council Social Work	

4. Compact placement sheet - complete one per institution

Placement interview rule: Aim for 5-7 minutes per institution. Start with the combined harm question. Tick the relevant categories and use only the matching prompts on the next page. Obtain one clear example per relevant type, plus the most serious incident if different.

Question / prompt	Response / notes
Institution name, location, approximate dates / age and who placed you there	Comiston Childrens Home, Oxscounds, 21 Jan 1991 - 19 June 1991/ 14 years old, Lothian Regional Council Social Work

Question / prompt	Response / notes
What type of setting was it, and how long were you there?	Big house, lots of other kids, clean place but had lots of damaged kids, there for about 5/6 months
In a few sentences, what was ordinary daily life like: accommodation, routines, school/work, food, clothing, hygiene and contact with family?	Was given basic hygiene to wash, cereal every day, bedtime before ten and had to get up before 8am. Not provided with clothing, had a family meeting every week.
How did staff and other children generally treat you? Were there rules, punishments, isolation or unsafe arrangements?	One of the other children attacked me and tried to choke me out, staff pulled them off me and he got kicked out of the home, not really any punishments, fags were taken away that's about, if you were acting crazy they would lock you away in a meeting room.
Did anything happen there that you now consider abuse, neglect or harmful? ☐ Sexual ☐ Physical ☐ Emotional ☐ Neglect ☐ Other	Emotional abuse, the worker coral, when the lasses ran away they would come back with cuts on their wrists
Who was involved or responsible? Include names, roles, descriptions, staff or other children where remembered.	Coral the worker there would say to girls to do the job properly referring to the cuts on their wrists
Give one clear example of what happened. Where and when did it occur, and what happened before, during and afterwards?	One of the girls were having a bath, one of the workers adam mccage threw a radio in the bath with her and i had to fish it out One of the workers would dig their knuckles into my ribs. Jimmy Cairns would tell us about being raped in the street by his dad and nothing happened.
How often did this happen, over what period, and did it change or become worse?	Once or twice a week, became worse and worse this was the reason they moved me to Moredun
What immediate effects did you experience: pain/injury, fear, shame, sleep problems, bedwetting, running away, behaviour or school changes?	Behaviour changes, did not attend school, skived all day drinking
Did anyone witness it, know about it, or experience something similar?	Jimmy Cairns and adam mccage were the workers that would get me to score them dope
Did you tell anyone or try to get help? What response did you receive? If not, why not?	I would tell my friends and they would come round as it was happening, haven't saw them in years and years
What was different at this placement compared with the others?	

Question / prompt	Response / notes
Institution name, location, approximate dates / age and who placed you there	Moredun Adolescent Unit, Edinburgh, 19 June 1991 - 18 Oct 1991, Lothian Regional Council Social Work
What type of setting was it, and how long were you there?	Residential unit that was supposed to move you in to getting your own house
In a few sentences, what was ordinary daily life like: accommodation, routines, school/work, food, clothing, hygiene and contact with family?	Work in the morning until 4pm, smoke a lot of dope, and buy your own food. Workers would take my money away for food so they could buy it for me as I was not getting enough nutrients. No clothes provided, had my own clothes that I could wash using the washer and tumble dryer
How did staff and other children generally treat you? Were there rules, punishments, isolation or unsafe arrangements?	Some of the kids were alright and some of them weren't, that goes for the staff as well
Did anything happen there that you now consider abuse, neglect or harmful? ☐ Sexual ☐ Physical ☐ Emotional ☐ Neglect ☐ Other	No nothing just that I was kicked out for smoking dope
Who was involved or responsible? Include names, roles, descriptions, staff or other children where remembered.	
Give one clear example of what happened. Where and when did it occur, and what happened before, during and afterwards?	

Question / prompt	Response / notes
How often did this happen, over what period, and did it change or become worse?	
What immediate effects did you experience: pain/injury, fear, shame, sleep problems, bedwetting, running away, behaviour or school changes?	
Did anyone witness it, know about it, or experience something similar?	
Did you tell anyone or try to get help? What response did you receive? If not, why not?	
What was different at this placement compared with the others?	

5. Conditional harm prompt bank - use only when relevant

Trauma-informed use: These are prompts, not a script. Ask the category heading first. Use examples only if the client needs help understanding the question. Do not ask for graphic detail that is unnecessary to explain what occurred.

Category	Use only where the client identifies this type of harm
Sexual abuse	Unwanted sexual touching or exposure; sexual comments/images; being made to watch; pressure or force to take part; attempted or actual penetration/oral activity/masturbation; photography or filming; grooming, gifts, threats or secrecy; number of people involved and approximate frequency/duration.
Physical abuse	Hitting, slapping, punching, kicking, shaking, throwing, restraint, locking in, exposure to cold or water, denial of food or toilet access, or use of an object. Record injuries/pain and whether treatment was provided, needed, hidden or ignored.
Emotional abuse	Threats, humiliation, blame, name-calling, isolation, different treatment, denial of family contact, being made to feel powerless or unwanted, or being forced to witness the abuse or humiliation of others.
Neglect	Inadequate or withheld food, clothing, warmth, hygiene, supervision, safety, medical care, education or emotional support; unsafe confinement; or failure to protect from bullying, violence, sexual harm, older children or unsafe adults.

6. People involved, reporting and institutional knowledge - ask once after all placements

Question / prompt	Response / notes
Across all placements, who were the main people responsible? Record names, nicknames, roles, descriptions or identifying details.	Andrew Mccaig, Jimmy Cairns
Were other children affected, and did you witness abuse or harm to anyone else?	Yes it was definitely going on, getting us to school on drugs
Why do you believe staff or the institution knew, or should have known, what was happening?	They didnt know it was just andrew and jimmy that knew
Were complaints discouraged, ignored or punished? Were you moved, threatened or disbelieved?	Ignored whenever we spoke up
Have you ever reported the abuse to police, an inquiry, a professional or any authority? What happened?	No we tried but nothing happened, tried to talk to my mother but wouldn't listen.

7. Movement between placements and leaving care

Question / prompt	Response / notes
Why did you move between placements, and were the reasons explained?	Removed me from moredun because i was too old for that but i was not told why i was moved from coniston to moredun
Did you run away, refuse to return or ask to be moved? What happened?	Ran away a couple of times
When and at what age did you leave care, and what were your circumstances afterwards?	Before i was 16, stayed with my mother until i got a flat, tried to look for other places but was not accepted because i was too young

8. Impact - ask once for the whole experience

Efficiency rule: Avoid repeating separate impact questions for each institution. Ask how the combined experience affected the client, then identify any placement or incident that had a particular effect.

Question / prompt	Response / notes
How did the experience affect you at the time: safety, trust, confidence, sleep, behaviour, education, relationships or ability to speak up?	Affected in a way where i did not feel safe, had no confidence, hardly slept, put in phyciatric care unit when i was 18, it affected all aspects of my life
How has it affected your mental health, including anxiety, depression, trauma symptoms, panic, flashbacks, nightmares, self-harm or suicidal thoughts?	
How has it affected physical health, sleep, pain, alcohol or substance use?	During care is when I started the substance and alcohol abuse and it got worse and worse. ian burtels
How has it affected relationships, parenting, friendships, intimacy, trust or isolation?	Isolated most of my life until moved into most recent hair. Was married to a social worker but she was not helpful, tried to blame my family for my problems
How has it affected education, work, confidence, opportunities, finances, housing or day-to-day stability?	My finances have been poor for years, education i have had none. Scared to leave my house and constantly looking over my shoulder
Are there triggers, places, smells, authority figures, institutions or situations you avoid?	I have paranoia, anxiety and am schizophrenic so avoid most situations
What impact has this had on your life overall, and what do you think may have been different if it had not happened?	Nightmares, staying awake every night struggling to sleep because I feel like I'm going to die. I would be a healthy working personal, would be able to stop abusing drugs. I wake up with nightmares of people raping me.

9. Support and treatment

Question / prompt	Response / notes
Have you received counselling, therapy, mental health, addiction, GP, hospital or other professional support?	Mental health hospital, psychiatric care unit royal edinburgh
Have you been diagnosed with any relevant condition, and have you taken any related medication?	Diabetes, high cholesterol, mild cardiac infraction, psychosis/schizophrenia
Are you receiving support now? If you delayed seeking help, what made it difficult?	1 hour a day people come to help me cook, clean and tidy up.

10. Evidence and supporting information

Question / prompt	Response / notes
What records may support the statement: care, social work, school, medical, police, counselling, prison/probation, benefits or other records?	They keep a records
Are there records of injuries, running away, behaviour or school changes, self-harm, substance use, complaints, moves or family contact issues?	Records of self harm and substance abuse, amande white, weston house
Are there letters, photographs, reports, inquiry evidence, apologies, decisions or previous correspondence?	no
Could any sibling, former resident, relative, friend, partner or professional provide a supporting statement?	no
Are records missing or incomplete, and has an evidence bundle already been obtained?	no

11. Previous claims, applications or payments

Question / prompt	Response / notes
Have you previously made any civil claim, criminal injuries claim, Redress application, complaint, police report, inquiry statement or claim to another scheme about this abuse?	Tried to when 28 but had no evidence and couldnt do anything about it
Did you receive any payment, apology, settlement or decision, or sign any waiver/discharge? Do you have copies?	no

12. Reason for applying

Question / prompt	Response / notes
Why are you applying to the Scottish Redress Scheme, and what would you like to come from telling your story?	I think people should know how shocking it was there and every other care home where it was happening
What would acknowledgement mean to you?	It would give me a bit of sanity left
Is there anything else you want Redress Scotland to understand about what happened or the harm you have lived with?	No its alright

13. Closing and welfare check

Question / prompt	Response / notes
Is there anything important we have not covered, or wording you want handled carefully?	I was raped in the street on the way back from my grandads
How are you feeling after discussing this, and do you feel safe to end the call?	Feel better

Question / prompt	Response / notes
Is there someone you can contact for support, or would you like support service details?	Yes, my stepdad or my nurse
Have the next steps been explained?	y

Back-office drafting checklist - not asked aloud

Check	Completed
Statement is in the client's own words where possible.	☐
Chronology and each relevant institution are clear.	☐
Relevant abuse/neglect types are identified without unnecessary repetition.	☐
At least one clear example and the most serious incident are recorded.	☐
Frequency, duration, people involved, witnesses and reporting are addressed.	☐
Immediate and long-term impact are addressed once across the whole statement.	☐
Evidence, previous claims/payments and memory gaps are recorded.	☐
Client has reviewed amendments and signed the statement of truth.	☐

Statement of truth / declaration

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

Signed	Name	Date