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11th August 2026

Redress Scotland

apply@redress-scheme.scot

By email/post: Email

Our Ref: 100125

Re: Scottish Redress Application - Miss Marita Barr

DOB: 07 April 1961

Application Reference: APP983014

Dear Sir/Madam,

Covering Letter - Witness Statement and Supporting Exhibits

We write in connection with the above Scottish Redress application. Please find enclosed the Witness Statement of Miss Marita Barr, together with the supporting exhibits referred to within the statement.

The purpose of the witness statement is to provide Miss Barr's own account of her childhood care placements, the abuse she describes experiencing while in care, and the impact this has had on her childhood and adult life. The statement is submitted in support of her application to The Scottish Redress Scheme and should be considered alongside the application form and supporting evidence bundle.

The statement explains that Miss Barr was placed into care in Scotland at approximately 2 years old. It records her placements at Quarrier's Homes, Crosslees Children's Home, Calder House Assessment Centre and Tynepark School for Girls, as well as her separation from siblings and movement between placements.

In summary, the statement describes Miss Barr's account of sexual, physical and emotional abuse while in care, together with her experiences of punishment, fear, family separation and attempts to run away. The statement further sets out the impact on Miss Barr at the time and throughout her adult life.

The enclosed evidence bundle is described in the witness statement as containing relevant documents obtained by Miss Barr's legal representatives from institutions, local authorities and medical practices. Some records may be incomplete or unavailable due to the passage of time and should be read together with Miss Barr's own account.

The statement also refers to Miss Barr being prescribed Citalopram and Amitriptyline, together with antidepressant medication, in the context of anxiety and the mental-health difficulties she describes.

Miss Barr attributes ongoing anxiety, flashbacks, nightmares, relationship difficulties and other continuing effects to her experiences in care. The medication and wider evidence may assist Redress Scotland in considering the possible link between the childhood trauma described and the ongoing impact. This is not intended as a medical opinion, but as a summary of the evidence referred to in the witness statement.

We respectfully request that Redress Scotland considers the enclosed witness statement, exhibits, application documents and wider evidence bundle when determining Miss Barr'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	Miss Barr's personal account in support of her Scottish Redress application.
Background and entry into care	Personal background, life before care, entry into care and separation from siblings.
Care placement account	Account of Quarrier's Homes, Crosslees Children's Home, Calder House Assessment Centre and Tynepark School for Girls, including daily life, staff conduct, punishments and care arrangements.
Abuse, neglect and reporting	Description of alleged sexual, physical and emotional abuse, punishment, fear and difficulties reporting what happened.
Impact evidence	Effect on childhood and adult life, including mental health, relationships, education/employment, alcohol/substance use and medication/treatment.
Supporting exhibits	Records and documents obtained from relevant institutions, local authorities and medical practices as referred to within the statement.
Payment Authority Form	A letter setting out reasons for us as the Clients legal representative to receive payment on their behalf together with their authority.

Yours faithfully,

Leah Pearson - Claims Handler

Investigations Team
MMA Legal

WITNESS STATEMENT OF MARITA BARR

Application to The Scottish Redress Scheme

Applicant: Miss Marita Barr

Date of Birth: 07 Apr 1961

Application Reference: APP983014

Support Person Present: No

Background

1. My name is Marita Barr. My name as a child was also Marita Barr.
2. My address is 42 Grizedale Road, Blackpool, FY4 4TL.
3. I make this statement in support of my application to 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. I confirm that I have provided as much detail as I am able to recall.
6. 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.
7. Where necessary, I have exhibited extracts of supporting documents to this statement in support of my application.
8. I am happy for this statement to be submitted to the Scottish Redress Inquiry.
9. I do not need any support to give this statement today, and I do not need anybody with me to complete it.
10. I understand the purpose of this statement and that it supports my Scottish Redress application.
11. I do not have, and have never had, any criminal convictions.
12. I was placed in care while I was under the age of 16.
13. The care setting was in Scotland.

- 14. I was approximately 2 years old when I went into care.
- 15. I am unaware of who placed me into care or why I was placed into care.
- 16. My placements were in children's homes.

Life Before Care

- 17. I was a baby.
- 18. I don't know, I know I was there when I was 2 years of age because somebody else has told me that on the phone.
- 19. I didn't even know that at all.
- 20. That was a shock to me.
- 21. I've been pretty upset to think that my mother actually put us in care at 2.
- 22. She never mentioned it to us before she died.
- 23. I had one picture of me when I was about 3-year-old.
- 24. That was from my Auntie Patsy.
- 25. I've lost it anyway, but that was one picture in my whole life.

Entry Into Care

- 26. I was only 2, so I don't remember much.
- 27. I know my first placement was in Quarriers Homes.
- 28. I have 3 brothers and 3 sisters.
- 29. We were all separated apart from myself and David (one of my brothers).
- 30. I can't spell, write or read properly. Since I was young.

Detailed Account of Each Placement

Quarrier's Homes, Bridge of Weir - 1963

- 31. I was placed here twice. Please see
"EXHIBIT 1"
- 32. Once in 1963 and another time in 1968.

33. This was a children's home.
34. Contact with my family was cut off.
35. I was given clothing, no choice though. Just what you were given.
36. I remember me and another girl were given matching leggings when we went to watch a movie.
37. We would have cornflakes in the morning.
38. I dont remember much from the first time as i was so young but the second time i remember everything.
39. I remember the abuse I endured.
40. There was a man and a woman.
41. He was bald and wore glasses.
42. I was treated awfully here.
43. I never felt safe.
44. Locked in a garden with a fence around it, I used to sit on the bench
45. I was told to sit in the same position
46. The woman would squeeze my wrist so it left marks and was sore.
47. I would cry
48. Once a week, they would take to their bedroom at the top of the stairs and lock the door.
49. They would give me sweets to keep me quiet.
50. They would force me to watch them touch each other.
51. They would call me a good girl and touch my private parts too.
52. The same thing happened every time.
53. They would tell me to stare at them to watch.
54. I tried running away multiple times.
55. I remember I would go over a thin wire fence into the backfields. I would be chased by all the cows.

56. I tried to tell my Mum what was happening but she said “dont be stupid, hes just playing games”

57. The whole experience of being ripped apart from my family.

58. I was only a kid myself and i cant remember everything.

Crosslees Children’s Home - 1963-1964

59. I was too young to remember anything about this placement.

Please see **"EXHIBIT 2"**.

Calder House Assessment Centre - Blantyre, 1975

60. I was placed into Calder House when I was around 14 years old. Please see **"EXHIBIT 3"**

61. I was here for approximately 5 months before being transferred.

62. This placement was an Assessment Centre.

63. I remember the girls would be downstairs and the boys upstairs.

64. There was a separate washroom and a separate toilet.

65. I can't remember anything about the food or toiletries here.

66. I know I had clothing but im not sure where they came from.

67. We were punished constantly.

68. It felt more like a bootcamp than a home.

69. I never made any friends here.

70. I remember another girl did a stick and poke tattoo of a cross on my wrist for fun.

71. The staff saw it and used a brillo pad to scrub it off.

72. They scrubbed it until I was bleeding.

73. I can still remember the male staff member.

74. He had brownish hair and was rather stalker, he always looked down so i can never think of his face.

75. I was physically and emotionally abused here.

76. Their idea of punishment was to make us stand in a line with a heavy book in each hand.

77. If your arms lowered or dropped you would be dug in the back with some sort of stick, maybe a walking stick or cane.

78. I tried running away, I even threw a hair through a window.

79. We received the same punishment.

80. This would last for 3 to 4 hours then you would be sent to bed.

81. I never slept much here, I couldn't sleep out of fear.

82. Your shoulder would be so sore after.

83. I never told anyone because I was a care kid.

84. You're always just another care kid.

Tynepark School for Girls - Haddington, 1976-1978

85. I was here for around 2 years. Please see "**EXHIBIT 4**"

86. It was a big house but it smelled.

87. The first night this big woolen woman gave me clothes to wear and showed me to a bedroom.

88. I think I got my own room.

89. The kitchen was in the basement where we had to eat.

90. You would enter down one set of stairs and exit out another.

91. I remember I think he was the man who owned the house. He wore glasses.

92. He was a decent guy, he never bothered me.

93. The food was okay I think.

94. We had a classroom in the same property but over the road.

95. No family came to see me when I was here.

96. I tried to run away and swallowed loads of things to take my own life

97. The staff treated me ok.

98. I was just existing.

99. You wouldn't be allowed to go into the villages and mingle.

100. No punishments but I never really did anything wrong.
101. I remember a member of staff punched me in the nose here.
102. I think she got reported.
103. I know my nose was bleeding.
104. I do remember one of the staff members was called Jannette.
105. She was big, very tall and big built
106. She had lots of freckles and strawberry blonde hair.
107. There was another member of staff who questioned why she punched me.
108. I never told anyone, especially after Quarriers.
109. I keep myself to myself.
110. I did get a bit more freedom here.
111. They would take us to the beach if you were good.

My Exit From Care

112. I left care when I was about 16 years old. Please
see "**EXHIBIT 5**"
113. I ended up in Borstal and then into a bail hostel.
114. I can't remember much.
115. I remember being put on a train when I left
Borstal.

Movement Between Placements

116. I can't remember why I was moved around so much.
117. I know I ran away a few times from each one.
118. I asked to be moved from Tynepark but I was told no one else would take me.

People involved, reporting an institutional Knowledge

119. Quarriers was the worst one by far.
120. It has stuck with me ever since.
121. It will never go away.

122. The man in Calder House who dug a stick into our back and side will always stick with me too.

123. I think the staff knew what they were doing.

124. I don't know if Quarriers Care Home knew.

125. I wouldn't complain because the outcome wasn't worth it.

126. I never speak to the police, I don't like them.

127. They don't listen to anyone until it's too late.

Impact On Life Past/Present/Future

128. The whole experience in care has ruined my life.

129. As I am older with my own kids, I was a kid myself.

130. I ended up on the streets before too.

131. It has affected my mental health massively.

132. I have Anxiety, flashbacks, nightmares and i have attempted suicide. **"EXHIBIT 6"**

133. I turned to alcohol, I had a high usage of drink. **"EXHIBIT 7"**

134. I also turned to substance use, I would sniff some stuff.

135. I have 6 children with 2 different fathers.

136. I didn't and still don't enjoy sex.

137. I constantly think back to being touched by the couple in Quarriers.

138. I find myself following my children and constantly checking in to make sure they're okay.

139. I did have 1 mate but she moved away.

140. I have a job at a bar but i dont really enjoy it.

141. I had a huge lack of education during my time in care.

142. I'm happier at home.

143. I can't think properly, my brain just goes foggy.

144. I avoid sex, also avoid going out because there's just too many people.

- 145. The whole thing ruined my life.
- 146. I'm getting through day by day with alcohol.
- 147. My life is just eat, drink, bed, repeat.
- 148. I don't go out, there's too many people.
- 149. I honestly wish I was never born.
- 150. If i was never put in care i think my life would have been better.
- 151. I wish my parents would have been better and nice but you can't get that.
- 152. Youtube what you are given.

Support and Treatment

- 153. I struggle massively with relationships.
- 154. I spent time in a mental asylum but I can't remember it.
- 155. I have anxiety.
- 156. I take prescription medicine to help.
- 157. I take Amitriptyline and have taken antidepressants.

"EXHIBIT 8"

- 158. I have been offered therapy but i dont want it.

Supporting Evidence and Records

- 159. I understand that records and documents may be considered alongside this statement. I have exhibited documents to this statement where necessary. I have also provided a bundle of evidence in addition to this statement.
- 160. It contains all the relevant documents that my legal representatives have been able to obtain on my behalf from relevant institutions, local authorities and medical practices.
- 161. 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.
- 162. I have done all in my power, with the assistance of my legal representative, to obtain and provide as much evidence as possible. I have asked my legal representative to redact any

information that is not relevant to my Scottish Redress application.

Difficulties with Memory and Gaps in Evidence

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

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

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

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

Previous Claims, Applications or Payments

167. I have not previously made any civil claim, criminal injury claim, Redress application, complaint, police report, inquiry statement or claim to another scheme about this abuse.

168. I have not received any payment, apology, settlement or decision, or signed any waiver or discharge.

Why Am I Applying to the Scottish Redress Scheme

169. I want the bastards punished.

170. Somebody should be held accountable for them.

171. They should have done background checks

172. These places are everywhere, you never know who's next door.

173. Acknowledgment means nothing to me.

174. Justice please your honour.

175. Not just for me but for everyone else as well.

176. They haven't been there or experienced it.

177. I want Scottish Redress to change the rules, change things for the better.

178. For the poor kids who've been through enough and get battered.

179. Everywhere ive been ive had to fight my way through, I've had to fight for everything.

180. It's in my heart and no one wants to listen.

Final Statement

181. 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.

182. I have never received any payment, apology, response or settlement in respect of my Scottish Redress claim or the abuse.

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

184. I have tried to provide a full and honest account of my experiences to the best of my knowledge and belief. I ask that Redress Scotland consider 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: Miss Marita Barr

Signed:

Dated:

EXHIBIT 1

APP983014

The children, apart from were admitted to Quarrier's by
Renfrew County Children's Department from May, 1963, to April, 1964.
Marita, were admitted to Quarrier's by Paisley Burgh
from 11/3/68 and respectively and returned home on
29/1/69.

EXHIBIT 2

stayed one night in Crosslees Children's Home.

Marita

M. A. Morgan.

Child Care Officer

2.5.63.

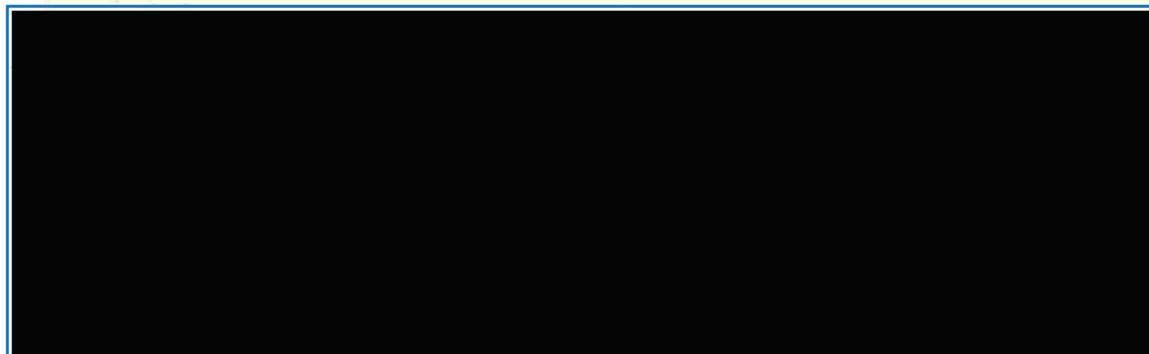
EXHIBIT 3

Name:- MARITA BARR

D.o.B. 7.4.61.

Address:- 4 Birks Road,
RENFREW.

Admitted:- 10.3.76.

Calder House.

Marita, aged 14 and 10 months has been at Calder House Assessment Centre, Blantyre since October, 1975. Attempts to place her at Balgay, Langlands Park, Dr. Guthrie's and St. Euphrasia's have failed. A report from Calder House, dated November, 1975, is appended. Since that time she has become more settled at Calder House and it is thought that the move from there will in itself provoke difficult behaviour in any other institution.

EXHIBIT 4

APP983014

(Place and date) PAISLEY 31ST MARCH 1976

A children's hearing for STRATHCLYDE REGION

by way of variation of [and in substitution for] the supervision requirement dated 17.9.75 to which

MARITA BARR is subject, hereby require him/her* [to reside in TYNEPARK SCHOOL
HADDINGTON] 1st

[to be under the supervision of] 1st

EXHIBIT 5

let me know

MARITA BARR, 4 Houston Street, Renfrew.

Paisley. 7.4.61 16

Protestant.

REVIEW.

Marita last appeared at a Childrens Hearing on 14.3.77 when her Residential Supervision was continued. Staff at Tynepark found that there was a marked deterioration in her behaviour from the Easter period. Eventually the situation became so impossible for staff that she was placed at the Castle Street Hostel. Unfortunately this arrangement also broke down after Marita was found 'glue' sniffing which led to a charge of Breach of Peace. She appeared at Edinburgh Sheriff Summary Court on 6.7.77 and was committed for Borstal Training.

EXHIBIT 6

17-Jun-2020 Dr Praveen Vincent (pv6443)
Chronic anxiety

30-Sept-2019 Dr Movsar Akhmatov (mov6443)
Anxiety with depression

25-Jun-2019 Dr Movsar Akhmatov (mov6443)
H/O: depression
(Replaced Anxiety with depression)

29-May-2019 Dr Movsar Akhmatov (mov6443)
H/O: depression
(Replaced Anxiety with depression)

EXHIBIT 7

16-Sept-2020 Dr Prasanna Anthony (PA)
Alcohol dependence

16-Mar-2020 Mr Barney Strange (strange6443)
Alcohol problem drinking

EXHIBIT 8

04-Aug-2009 Amitriptyline 25mg tablets Acute Medication (Past)
28 tablet(s) - take one at night

04-Aug-2009 Amitriptyline 25mg tablets Acute Medication (Past)
28 tablet(s) - take one at night

11-Feb-2026 Amitriptyline 10mg tablets
84 tablet - Four To Be Taken At Night
