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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

Nicole Blades

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

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

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).

Cecil Street- Copebridge

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.

1999

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.

i was abused at home and raped of 3 men at the dame time at home i couldnt be at home i was 7 years old and bullied i had enough after years of abuse i went to a children's panel When I was 13 or 14 years old, in 1999, I was placed in Cecil Street – Coatbridge. From the moment I arrived, I was terrified. I remember feeling absolutely petrified, confused, and deeply upset. Instead of being comforted or supported, I was dragged by staff and locked in a laundry room for several hours. I was a child, scared and already traumatised, and I was treated like I didn't matter.

I later found out that the social worker had told the staff to treat me this way because they believed I "should have been at home and not here." There was no empathy, no care, and no attempt to understand why I didn't want to go home. I was only in Cecil Street for a few days, but those few days were some of the most traumatic of my life.

During the short time I was there, I was secluded, locked away, and constantly called a "spoiled brat." This was especially cruel because the reason I didn't want to go home was that my mum used to beat me. I was already living in fear and abuse, and instead of being protected, I was punished for trying to escape it.

Staff told me things like, "Go home and get raped and sexually assaulted." Hearing that as a child destroyed any sense of safety I had left. There was no reassurance, no protection, and no compassion. They made my days there as hard as possible, clearly trying to force me to give up and go back home to the abuse I was trying to escape.

I was taken to a children's panel, and they asked me which parent I wanted to live with. I said neither, because both of them abused me. Instead of being listened to or helped, I felt judged, dismissed, and pressured. Everyone around me seemed determined to push me back into the very situation I was begging to be protected from.

I was being bullied and emotionally abused by the staff at Cecil Street, and I felt completely trapped. I couldn't go home because of the abuse there, but I was also being abused in the place that was supposed to keep me safe. I felt like I had nowhere in the world where I was wanted, safe, or cared for.

The emotional impact was overwhelming. I started thinking about ending my life while I was there. The mental and physical toll was unbearable. I felt worthless, hopeless, and completely alone. Eventually, things got so bad that I was arrested at school and taken to hospital after taking a large amount of paracetamol. I was a child in crisis, and instead of receiving help, I was punished and dismissed.

Long Term Impact on My Mental Health and Life

The trauma I experienced at Cecil Street has stayed with me throughout my entire life. Being locked away, dragged, insulted, and told to return to sexual and physical abuse has caused deep psychological wounds that I still struggle with today. I became a self harmer here

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).

Torrance avenue Childrens Home- Airdree

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.

1999

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. 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.

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

Client Name: Nicole Blades
Date of Birth: 19/01/1986
Care Setting: Torrance avenue Childrens Home- Airdree
Dates: 1999
Persons Involved:

Full Statement

I was sent here from the previous place already worried, upset, and scared. When I arrived, I met the manager, Lynne Sheridan, who was the sister of Glasgow MP Tommy Sheridan. She was managing the home at the time. From the very beginning, she was horrible to me. She was vicious, nasty, and made it clear that she didn't care about me or my wellbeing.

During my time here, I had no social worker for two years. My social worker was off sick, and I had no one to turn to, no one to cry out to for help, and no one to protect me. I was completely alone. There was absolutely no support for me whatsoever.

I remember waking up one morning to a staff member arresting me for no reason. I was strip-searched, and it was humiliating, degrading, and deeply upsetting. I was constantly told I was a horrible girl and that I shouldn't be there. I had left home because I was beaten and abused, yet the staff singled me out for this and told me repeatedly that I should be at home. Instead of understanding why I couldn't go back, they bullied me and called me names.

Food wasn't always available. The kitchen was locked, and I had to beg for food. We didn't have a cook for a long time, so we lived on takeaways for months. We had no balanced or healthy diet. The staff would even allow us to drink alcohol. They took us on holiday to a cottage, and one of the male staff members allowed me and another girl to get drunk with him. That same man was recently in court for a brutal relationship with a minor. I don't know what happened when we were blackout drunk, and that uncertainty has haunted me for years. He also allowed us to drink and then drive the minibus.

The staff would beat us as punishment. They restrained us painfully, sitting on us, bending our arms, punching us, grabbing us, and slamming us against walls. They punched us in the stomach. They once restrained me on top of my bed, lifted me up, and dropped me onto the floor. Life there was hell. There was no safe space for me, no trust, no protection.

They held me back in my education. They turned the other children against me and threatened the younger

children with the older ones. They forced me to intimidate younger children, and when I refused, I was beaten. I was constantly punished for trying to do the right thing.

I fell pregnant while living in this care home. When I gave birth, the manager, Lynne Sheridan, came to the hospital to visit me. Instead of offering support, she told me right there and then that I had nowhere to live and that I was not allowed to return to the care home. They left me homeless at 17 with a newborn baby. Again, my social worker was nowhere to be found. The hospital let me stay for five days, but after that, I had to go back to my abusive dad's house.

When I returned home, my dad came in drunk and abused me in front of my baby. He nearly fell on my baby. Once again, I had to escape because I had been failed all over again.

Long-Term Impact on My Mental Health and Life

Everything I went through in Cecil Street has left deep, lifelong scars. I suffer from severe PTSD and anxiety. I struggle to build relationships and trust people because every adult who was supposed to protect me either abused me or abandoned me. I have been let down my whole life.

I often feel like my life was over before it even began. No one ever cared about me. I was treated like a human punch bag and abused throughout my entire childhood. The trauma has shaped every part of my life — my mental health, my relationships, my sense of safety, and my ability to trust the world around me.

I still carry the fear, the shame, and the pain of what happened. I still live with the consequences every single day. I've self-harmed, the staff watched me cut myself and constantly told I was an attention seeker. I've struggled my whole life and I still struggle now. I take antidepressants.