

Survivor Supplementary Statement

Date completed: **28/07/2026**

Survivor Full Name: **David John Rodger** Other Known Name: **None**

DOB: **15/09/1964** Redress Case Ref Num: **APP040877** Status: **Low Priority**

Mother's Name: **Linda Rodger (maiden name Pollock)** Father's Name: **Lloyd Rodger**

Siblings Names/DOB: **Jacqueline Rodger - deceased, Andrew Rodger - 28/10/1966, Lloyd Rodger, Paul Rodger – Were not in care (unsure of dates of birth)**

Serious Criminal Conviction in the last 5 years: **None**

Reason for going into care: **Failure to attend school – decided by a children's panel**

1. Introduction

My name is David Rodger. I am making this statement to share my experiences of being in care as a child and the impact these experiences have had on my life. Some of the details are difficult for me to talk about, and some memories are clearer than others, but I will describe what I remember to the best of my ability.

I understand that my records from the time are limited or incomplete, and I want to explain my experiences in my own words.

2. My Time in Care – Overview

I was involved with Monklands social work services; I believe this was around 1976 when I was approximately 11 or 12 years old. I recall assessments being done, but I did not always understand what they were for.

I was moved to Kittoch residential school, East Kilbride for 3 years approx. This was decided by a children's panel with the Social Services. I will describe the placement as I remember it.

Kittoch residential school, East Kilbride

It was horrendous here. During my time at Kittoch, if the staff believed I had misbehaved, I would lose my parental leave. There was a room designed for calming down, with padded walls, where I was locked in several times. I spent hours in there until I was calm, with my longest stay being a full day, being given no food or water for 24hrs. Eating in the padded room was not allowed; I had to wait until I was calm to be let out for meals. Most of the time I ended up in the 'calm room' was after my parents had visited. I would cry and act out because all I wanted was to be with them. The room had a small window that was so high up you couldn't see out of it. It was like being in a prison cell.

We had privileges like a tuck shop, but if the staff thought we'd misbehaved, those privileges would be revoked. Cold showers were frequently used as punishment, and a staff member was always present during showering so there was no privacy; nothing happened to me in there thankfully. I often wet the bed and was forced to strip it then remake it at a young age; I had to do this in front of others as well which was humiliating.

I endured abuse from a staff member; McFarlane was his surname, and he did shifts. He would kick me up the arse frequently, mostly during football, if I was not playing well.

I remember distinctly, when the fire alarm went off one night. It was the middle of winter, and I was outside in my pj's for around 4 hours. I was shivering and my teeth were chattering as I was so cold.

I attempted to run away but was always caught, resulting in the loss of my home leave and privileges; I remember losing my home leave for an entire month. The bullying was rampant; older boys in there would often hit me and threaten me. The staff would reprimand them, but it never stopped the bullying.

I remember a boy called Dicky; he was the main bully picking on younger boys. We used to share a room, and Dicky's bed was opposite mine. He would throw things across the room at me when I was in bed trying to wake me and was often verbally abuse. Six of us slept in our dorm room which was sectioned off with dividers. It was like a small dorm named after Scottish Islands. Night shift staff would frequently enter my room, and I could hear other kids fighting and shouting at night. While I was never subjected to sexual abuse, I knew some older boys and girls engaged in sexual acts.

The place was clean and organised, and we had a rota for doing the dishes. We had plenty of recreation time so that was the only good thing. The worst part for me was being torn away from my family; it felt like being imprisoned as a young boy. Because my parents lived so far away, they couldn't get over to visit that often. My dad had a taxi so that was their only way of getting over to see me, but it wasn't that often they could make it. Because I couldn't see them, I'd get really upset and frustrated.

3. Emotional and Long-Term Impact

My experiences in care have affected me throughout my life and I have never been the same since my time in care. I used to experience nightmares and severe panic attacks thinking about Kittoch when I was younger, but I am now on medication for it which I've been taking for over 10 years. I also had sleep apnoea and still don't sleep well to this day.

I tend to stay at home mostly now as I get claustrophobic if I'm out around large crowds; it's too overwhelming for me. I've also been on medication for years for heart issues which my doctor believes is stress related. I have heart arrhythmia so had to give up football as I was so scared of overdoing things. That was devastating for me as I had a deep passion for football and lived for it.

Since giving up football, I've gained a lot of weight because of not being so active and this also worries me because of my heart issue. All of this stems from my time in care and what I went through. These experiences have shaped my life in ways that continue to affect me today.

4. Missing or Incomplete Records

I understand that some of the institutions involved have been unable to provide full records of my time in care. This has been difficult, but I know that my memories and experiences are valid. I am sharing what I remember because these events had a significant impact on my life.

5. Closing Statement

I am making this statement to help Redress Scotland understand what happened to me and how it has affected me. I am doing this in the hope that my experiences will be acknowledged and that I can continue to move forward in my life.

Thank you for taking the time to read my statement.

Signed: *David Rodger*

Date: 28/07/2026