

Scotland's Redress Scheme

Application form **Part 2**

Additional statement pages

Name

Shona Brown

Date of birth

Day 16

Month 11

Year 1965

Your statement for additional care settings

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).

Highland Council Fostering and Adoption Service

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.

1965 - 1981

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.

Part 2 of the application form provides more information about what you may want to include.

Your statement for additional care settings

9 Dewket Road, Nairn, Nairnshire, Scotland

I don't know exactly when but I was placed here in between birth and 6 months. I was treated like a dirty little secret. I was dropped off there, and no one ever spoke to me about why I was there or what had happened to me.

I cannot remember exactly when the abuse started, but my earliest memories are from when I was around 3 or 4 years old. The man of the house abused me, and later his son, who was around 12 years old, began abusing me as well. The man of the house used to drug us, and then the son started doing the same. I was treated like a piece of meat. The son was also very violent. From the age of 5 he raped me on multiple occasions, whenever he had the opportunity.

One of the most traumatic incidents happened when I was about 4/5 years old. The son pushed me into the nappy cleaning bowl, which contained boiling water and cleaning crystals. My leg was so badly burned that I had to spend around a year in Raigmore Hospital, undergoing skin grafts and ongoing treatment. My injuries were so severe that I almost ended up on an adult ward. I remember desperately wanting to stay in hospital because I knew I would have to return to the abuse if I was discharged. Sadly, after I returned, the abuse continued.

It was always his way or no way. If he did not get what he wanted, we were abused. On one occasion, while I was trying to get away from him, I climbed up a tree, he managed to get to me and he pushed me out of the tree.

The foster mother showed very little care towards us. She went to bingo every night and neglected our basic needs. We were only bathed every few months, and we were sent to school with nothing. I was severely bullied at school, which only added to the trauma I was already experiencing at home.

Whenever the social workers came to visit, including a social worker called Mrs Linda, we were made to go outside and hide so they would not speak to us. It was only when I was around 12 years old, after I had started getting into trouble, that social workers began speaking to me directly. By that point I had started drinking and staying out because it felt safer than going back to the foster home.

The long-term impact of everything I experienced has been devastating. I have never been able to settle or feel safe. I hardly sleep at all because I always feel the need to stay alert. I now live in a wheelchair and rarely even go to bed. Instead, I spend my days and nights sitting in my chair until I eventually fall asleep from exhaustion, as I constantly feel that I need to remain on guard.