

Scotland's Redress Scheme

Application form **Part 2**

Additional statement pages

Name

Michael Hughes

Date of birth

Day 21 Month 05 Year 1956

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).

Larchgrove Remand Centre

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.

1970 - 71

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

My family had very little money, so I was sent to this place. I was there for somewhere between three weeks and two months while waiting to be transferred to an approved school. You did not get to choose where you went; the authorities made that decision and sent you there.

When I arrived, they shaved my head completely bald. I was a very skinny boy, and because of that I was constantly bullied by other children and staff simply because they could. It made me feel vulnerable and humiliated from the moment I arrived.

There was one staff member whose job was to gather information about us and decide where we would be sent. I remember him asking me deeply inappropriate and disturbing sexual questions. He asked whether my brothers and I touched each other because we had to share a bed at home. He also asked if I had a sister and whether I would rather sleep with her instead. His comments were disgusting and completely unacceptable. He made repeated sexual remarks that made me feel deeply uncomfortable and ashamed. I did not understand why an adult would ask a child those kinds of questions.

If we ever answered back, we would be slapped or kicked.

Sometimes I could not help responding when he made those comments because they upset and angered me so much. Other times, we would simply be talking to another child in the corridor and he would suddenly shout, "Shut up," before slapping us and telling us to "know your place." There was no reason for the violence; it was used to intimidate and control us.

I hated every moment I was there. I desperately wanted to run away, but I could not leave because we were effectively locked in and had no way of getting out. I lived in a constant state of fear, never knowing when I would be shouted at, hit, or humiliated again. Instead of feeling cared for or protected, I felt trapped, powerless, and frightened throughout my stay.

There was no one I could turn to and no one who would listen to me. I felt completely alone. No matter what was happening, there was nobody I trusted enough to tell, and even if I had, I did not believe anyone would have helped me.

My time there had a profound effect on my life. Looking back, I believe it was the start of a downward spiral. The fear, bullying, abuse and lack of support changed me. After leaving, I lost my way for several years. I struggled to cope with everything that had happened, and my life went downhill from that point. Instead of receiving the care and guidance I needed as a child, I left feeling angry, frightened and deeply damaged, and those experiences affected the choices I made and the direction my life took for many years afterwards.