

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).

St Andrews

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

I was then sent to St Andrew's Approved School. I had no choice about going there. We were simply sent wherever there was a space available.

The regime there was very strict. I was occasionally slapped, but the main punishment was much worse. If you did anything wrong, you were taken to the headmaster's office. They would make you bend over a chair with your legs spread and your backside raised in the air, leaving you completely exposed and vulnerable. They would then strike us repeatedly across the buttocks with a leather belt. It was humiliating and painful, and I dreaded being punished. Afterwards, we were forced to take cold showers. The staff would make us turn around so they could inspect the belt marks and ensure the cold water hit the injuries, which made the pain even worse. As an additional punishment, we had to wear only a pair of PT shorts for the following week, leaving us cold and exposed. It felt as though the purpose was not only to punish us physically but also to humiliate us.

The whole atmosphere at St Andrew's was one of fear. I experienced both physical and psychological abuse throughout my time there. I felt abandoned, isolated and as though nobody cared about what was happening to me. There was no one I could talk to or ask for help, and I simply accepted what was happening because I did not know any different.

I had grown up with very little, and hardship had always been a part of my life. Because of that, I believed this was normal. As a child, I thought this was simply how children like me were treated. It was only much later in life that I realised none of it was normal, and that I should have been cared for, protected and treated with kindness instead of fear and punishment.

It took me years to climb out of the downward path these places set me on. Instead of leaving with support, stability and opportunities, I left carrying fear, anger and trauma. I lost my way for many years and struggled to cope with everything that had happened to me.

The abuse, neglect and lack of care shaped the course of my life. Looking back now, I can see that the way I was treated was never normal, and it was never my fault. It took me years to begin rebuilding my life and trying to overcome the damage caused by my experiences in care.

One of the biggest effects has been my inability to trust people. The adults who were supposed to care for me, protect me and keep me safe were the very people who abused and neglected me. Because of that, I find it extremely difficult to trust anyone. I struggle to let people get close to me or rely on others, and I often expect to be let down or hurt. The experiences I endured as a child continue to affect my relationships, my sense of safety and the way I see the world to this day.