

Scotland's Redress Scheme

Application form **Part 2**

Additional statement pages

Name

Margaret Arnott

Date of birth

Day 24

Month 08

Year 1962

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).

Falkirk Council

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.

1976 - 1978

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

The abuse I then experienced from my mother was horrendous. It was absolute hell. My brother and I were starved, beaten and abandoned over and over again. I was still only a child myself, yet I was left to take on the role of a mother to my younger brother while my mother went through multiple relationships and failed to properly care for us. There were times when we had so little food that I had to steal food from the local allotments just so that my brother could eat. I should never have been put in a position where I was responsible for making sure another child was fed and safe. I was a child too, and I needed someone to protect and care for me. What makes this particularly difficult for me is knowing that we had already been known to Social Services and had previously been taken into care after our mother abandoned us. When she took us from the home, I feel that nobody made sure we were safe or properly followed up on what had happened. We were left in an unsafe situation where the abuse and neglect continued. During this time, my self-harming became significantly worse. I was struggling so much with everything that was happening to me that I harmed myself repeatedly. Even now, almost every area of skin that I can see is covered in scars, which are a lasting reminder of what I was going through. I felt completely hopeless and abandoned. I remember praying that either I would die or that somebody would finally find us and realise what was happening. I desperately wanted someone to come and help us, but nobody ever did. I was still a child and should never have reached a point where death felt like the only alternative to someone coming to rescue us. I needed protection, care and support, but instead I felt completely forgotten. I strongly feel that if we had been properly looked after, protected and cared for, we would never have been left in that situation. We needed adults to safeguard us, but instead I was left trying to protect and provide for my little brother while having nobody there to protect me.