

STREAMLINED WITNESS STATEMENT INTERVIEW TEMPLATE

Application to the Scottish Redress Scheme | Target interview time: 45-60 minutes

How to keep the call within one hour: Prefill dates, placements and record-based information before the call. Ask the short core questions first. Only use the detailed prompt bank where the client identifies that type of harm. Do not read every example aloud. Where the same pattern occurred at more than one institution, record what was the same and ask only what was different. At 55 minutes, finish the current incident, complete the welfare check and record any follow-up action rather than rushing sensitive evidence.

Suggested time plan

Stage	Target time	Approach
Opening and consent	3 minutes	Confirm welfare, control of the meeting and consent.
Background and entry into care	7 minutes	Ask once for the whole statement, not for each placement.
Chronology	5 minutes	Confirm the prefilled placement list and correct any gaps.
Placements and harm	25-30 minutes	Use one compact placement sheet per institution; relevant prompts only.
Impact, support and evidence	10-12 minutes	Ask once across the whole life course.
Reason for applying and close	3-5 minutes	Final information and welfare check.

Client and application details - prefill before the call

Question / prompt	Response / notes
Applicant full name	Steven Mcculloch
Date of birth	23/02/1992
Current address	1/1 46 Galloway Street
Application reference	APP461289
Statement taker / interviewer	Daniel Asprey
Date and method of meeting	13/08/2026 phone call
Legal representative / organisation	MMA Legal
Known support needs or adjustments	n/a

1. Opening and consent

Suggested opening: You are in control of this meeting. You may take a break, skip a question or ask me to reword anything. Some questions may be upsetting because they concern your time in care and its impact.

Question / prompt	Response / notes
Are you comfortable and happy to continue today?	y
Do you need anyone with you, a break or any other adjustment?	n
Do you understand the purpose of the statement and agree that it may be used for your Scottish Redress application and supporting evidence?	y

2. Personal background and entry into care

Question / prompt	Response / notes
Where did you grow up, and who lived with you before care?	Grew up in place garthamlock with my mother and sister then went to live with aunt and uncle then went to live with father after trying to run away
What was home life like before care? Include any family, health, education or social work difficulties that are relevant.	Wasnt great, my mother suffered with bipolar, my mum couldnt care for us, she tried to commit suicide. Home life with aunt and uncle was not much better, spent most of my time locked in my bedroom, I don't remember much from my time here other than this and trying to run away. Dont remember much from my time with my father but i just know my dad had a new girlfriend that didn't like us so this would cause arguments
How did you come to enter care, who made the decision, and were you told why?	From what i remember, the reason we got took i do not know but this big part of it was my mother not being able to look after us
Did you have siblings, and were you separated from any of them?	Me and my sister were together, my other siblings had a different mother from my dads girlfriend
How old were you when you first entered care, and how did you feel at the time?	7 years old approximately, i was very uncomfortable because i was being put with people i do not know, it wasn't the greatest feeling
Is there anything important about your childhood health, learning needs, vulnerability or name history that should be recorded?	Not that i know of.

3. Care placement chronology - confirm rather than rebuild on the call

Efficiency rule: Use records to prefill this table. Read the list back to the client and ask whether anything is missing or incorrect. A return home may be included where it helps explain the sequence.

No.	Care setting / institution	Location	Approx. dates / age	Placing authority	Notes / source
1	Mrs Elizabeth Meechan, foster parent	948 Cumbernauld Road, Glasgow, G33 2QR	27 Aug 1999 - 2 Dec 1999 7 years old	'Local Authority care'	Temporary placement until permanent was found
2	John and Isabel Ross	361 Ashgill Road, Glasgow, G22 7HN	2 Dec 1999 - April 2004	'Glasgow Social work involvement'	
3	Linda and Robert Adam (Rab)	27 Harbour Place, Burntisland, Fife, KY3 9DP	April 2004 - 26 Oct 2009	Glasgow City council	
4	Unnamed Foster Parents	8 Hazlehead Drive, Kinghorn, Dundee	26 Oct 2009 - 18 Nov 2009	Glasgow city council	
5					
6					

4. Compact placement sheet - complete one per institution

Placement interview rule: Aim for 5-7 minutes per institution. Start with the combined harm question. Tick the relevant categories and use only the matching prompts on the next page. Obtain one clear example per relevant type, plus the most serious incident if different.

Question / prompt	Response / notes
Institution name, location, approximate dates / age and who placed you there	Mrs Meechan, 948 Cumbernauld Road, Glasgow, G33 2QR, 27 Aug 1999 - 2 Dec 1999 7 years old, 'Local Authority care'
What type of setting was it, and how long were you there?	Foster, 4 months
In a few sentences, what was ordinary daily life like: accommodation, routines, school/work, food, clothing, hygiene and contact with family?	It was brilliant, you would get up go to school come back be fed and we were allowed to go out and play, there was a lot of freedom, there was always food provided for every meal and snacks and stuff, we were provided with clothing and basic hygiene essentials
How did staff and other children generally treat you? Were there rules, punishments, isolation or unsafe arrangements?	Brilliant, she treated us as if we were her own kids
Did anything happen there that you now consider abuse, neglect or harmful? ☐ Sexual ☐ Physical ☐ Emotional ☐ Neglect ☐ Other	No, nothing at all
Who was involved or responsible? Include names, roles, descriptions, staff or other children where remembered.	n/a
Give one clear example of what happened. Where and when did it occur, and what happened before, during and afterwards?	n/a
How often did this happen, over what period, and did it change or become worse?	
What immediate effects did you experience: pain/injury, fear, shame, sleep problems, bedwetting, running away, behaviour or school changes?	
Did anyone witness it, know about it, or experience something similar?	
Did you tell anyone or try to get help? What response did you receive? If not, why not?	
What was different at this placement compared with the others?	

5. Conditional harm prompt bank - use only when relevant

Trauma-informed use: These are prompts, not a script. Ask the category heading first. Use examples only if the client needs help understanding the question. Do not ask for graphic detail that is unnecessary to explain what occurred.

Category	Use only where the client identifies this type of harm
Sexual abuse	Unwanted sexual touching or exposure; sexual comments/images; being made to watch; pressure or force to take part; attempted or actual penetration/oral activity/masturbation; photography or filming; grooming, gifts, threats or secrecy; number of people involved and approximate frequency/duration.
Physical abuse	Hitting, slapping, punching, kicking, shaking, throwing, restraint, locking in, exposure to cold or water, denial of food or toilet access, or use of an object. Record injuries/pain and whether treatment was provided, needed, hidden or ignored.
Emotional abuse	Threats, humiliation, blame, name-calling, isolation, different treatment, denial of family contact, being made to feel powerless or unwanted, or being forced to witness the abuse or humiliation of others.
Neglect	Inadequate or withheld food, clothing, warmth, hygiene, supervision, safety, medical care, education or emotional support; unsafe confinement; or failure to protect from bullying, violence, sexual harm, older children or unsafe adults.

Question / prompt	Response / notes
Institution name, location, approximate dates / age and who placed you there	John and Isabel Ross, 361 Ashgill Road, Glasgow, G22 7HN, 2 Dec 1999 - April 2004, 'Glasgow Social work involvement'
What type of setting was it, and how long were you there?	Foster, approx 4 years.
In a few sentences, what was ordinary daily life like: accommodation, routines, school/work, food, clothing, hygiene and contact with family?	It wasn't great, stuck in our rooms, locked in as if we were ruled with fear. The clothing that we got there they would dress us in stuff that was too small and the trampiest of clothing, the type of things that would get you bullied for your clothing. When it came to dinners they would purposely make us things we didn't like and force us to eat them to the point we were physically sick. We were allowed contact with our mother but they would sit and monitor this to make sure we would not tell her anything that was happening in the house. put to bed very early like 5pm and were not allowed back out until the morning, we were not even allowed to leave the room to go to the bathroom. I had to sleep sitting up in a chair due to them not changing the sheets after bed wetting
How did staff and other children generally treat you? Were there rules, punishments, isolation or unsafe arrangements?	They had an older boy there that they treated completely different to me and my sister, he would beat me up in the back garden and Isabel and John would stand there and watch, even egg him on to do not. Locked in a room and took the lightbulb away as a punishment.
Did anything happen there that you now consider abuse, neglect or harmful? ☐ Sexual ☐ Physical ☐ Emotional ☐ Neglect ☐ Other	Locked away in our rooms in complete darkness not allowed to leave. The other foster child would be treated much better than us like we were different. They would try and turn us against our mum John and Isabel. We were told that we are the reason our mum tried to commit suicide at the time we did not know emotional abuse was a thing.
Who was involved or responsible? Include names, roles, descriptions, staff or other children where remembered.	John and Isabel Ross the foster parents, they were just evil people, the boy who was treated differently was called David Lesley
Give one clear example of what happened. Where and when did it occur, and what happened before, during and afterwards?	The reason I got moved is because I got punched in the face by John Ross after I had bumped into something in the garage and knocked it over on accident then he came out full of anger and punched me in the face. After this I ran into the house and up to my room
How often did this happen, over what period, and did it change or become worse?	This only happened once but this had caused me to be moved from there
What immediate effects did you experience: pain/injury, fear, shame, sleep problems, bedwetting, running away, behaviour or school changes?	I was wetting the bed a lot I think out of nervousness and it caused a lot of anger that would cause me to punch myself in the face from it building up
Did anyone witness it, know about it, or experience something similar?	My sister went through the same sort of things, they just had a dislike for me and my sister and the other boy David Lesley witnessed all this but he was there favoured child and just a bully
Did you tell anyone or try to get help? What response did you receive? If not, why not?	No we were warned by John and Isabel that if we told anyone about what was happening there they would send us away to a children's prison or just somewhere much worse
What was different at this placement compared with the others?	The only way to describe it is like going from heaven to hell

Question / prompt	Response / notes
Institution name, location, approximate dates / age and who placed you there	Linda and Robert Adam (Rab), 27 Harbour Place, Burntisland, Fife, KY3 9DP, April 2004 - 26 Oct 2009, Glasgow City council
What type of setting was it, and how long were you there?	Foster, Approx 5 years
In a few sentences, what was ordinary daily life like: accommodation, routines, school/work, food, clothing, hygiene and contact with family?	It was brilliant, we would all go as a family bike rides, we went on family holidays, strict wake up times for when we had school and they would take me to football, always provided for with the most up to date things and trends
How did staff and other children generally treat you? Were there rules, punishments, isolation or unsafe arrangements?	They treated me brilliant, when we went there they had a son that you could say that we were like brothers
Did anything happen there that you now consider abuse, neglect or harmful? ☐ Sexual ☐ Physical ☐ Emotional ☐ Neglect ☐ Other	no
Who was involved or responsible? Include names, roles, descriptions, staff or other children where remembered.	
Give one clear example of what happened. Where and when did it occur, and what happened before, during and afterwards?	
How often did this happen, over what period, and did it change or become worse?	
What immediate effects did you experience: pain/injury, fear, shame, sleep problems, bedwetting, running away, behaviour or school changes?	
Did anyone witness it, know about it, or experience something similar?	
Did you tell anyone or try to get help? What response did you receive? If not, why not?	
What was different at this placement compared with the others?	It was a lot different, they actually made me feel like i was part of the family

Question / prompt	Response / notes
Institution name, location, approximate dates / age and who placed you there	Unnamed Foster Parents, 8 Hazlehead Drive, Kinghorn, 26 Oct 2009 - 18 Nov 2009, Glasgow city council
What type of setting was it, and how long were you there?	Foster 1 month, temporary settings
In a few sentences, what was ordinary daily life like: accommodation, routines, school/work, food, clothing, hygiene and contact with family?	It was fine, i was older here and had freedom for when i was becoming an adult
How did staff and other children generally treat you? Were there rules, punishments, isolation or unsafe arrangements?	Yeah it was her and her young son and they were brilliant
Did anything happen there that you now consider abuse, neglect or harmful? ☐ Sexual ☐ Physical ☐ Emotional ☐ Neglect ☐ Other	no
Who was involved or responsible? Include names, roles, descriptions, staff or other children where remembered.	
Give one clear example of what happened. Where and when did it occur, and what happened before, during and afterwards?	
How often did this happen, over what period, and did it change or become worse?	

Question / prompt	Response / notes
What immediate effects did you experience: pain/injury, fear, shame, sleep problems, bedwetting, running away, behaviour or school changes?	
Did anyone witness it, know about it, or experience something similar?	
Did you tell anyone or try to get help? What response did you receive? If not, why not?	
What was different at this placement compared with the others?	Had the freedom and independence to do my own stuff, helped me to become an adult

6. People involved, reporting and institutional knowledge - ask once after all placements

Question / prompt	Response / notes
Across all placements, who were the main people responsible? Record names, nicknames, roles, descriptions or identifying details.	John and isabel ross and the other foster child there david lesley
Were other children affected, and did you witness abuse or harm to anyone else?	Yes my sister and two other girls there that were sisters that were not treated great either
Why do you believe staff or the institution knew, or should have known, what was happening?	No the institutions did not know
Were complaints discouraged, ignored or punished? Were you moved, threatened or disbelieved?	Our complaints would just get brushed off, we would be threatened to not tell anyone about the things happening in there
Have you ever reported the abuse to police, an inquiry, a professional or any authority? What happened?	no

7. Movement between placements and leaving care

Question / prompt	Response / notes
Why did you move between placements, and were the reasons explained?	Moved from mrs meacan because this was temporary. Moved from john and isabel as they were going on holiday then i was put on restbite, thats when i told my sister that john had hit me.
Did you run away, refuse to return or ask to be moved? What happened?	I remember running away from linda and rab just due to the abuse i had suffered previously this made me a very emotional child.
When and at what age did you leave care, and what were your circumstances afterwards?	I went into a supported lodging house with a couple where i had my own room sort of like a shared house to help with my independence. My circumstances were not great, received a lack of help after leaving care as to no direction or help to get work

8. Impact - ask once for the whole experience

Efficiency rule: Avoid repeating separate impact questions for each institution. Ask how the combined experience affected the client, then identify any placement or incident that had a particular effect.

Question / prompt	Response / notes
How did the experience affect you at the time: safety, trust, confidence, sleep, behaviour, education, relationships or ability to speak up?	I had no confidence and no trust in people, really made me a shell of myself, only get 3 or 4 hours sleep every night for as long as i can remember. It affected my education because I was very bad in school. I don't express emotions well, when my partner is having bad days i just feel awkward i dont know how to deal with emotion.
How has it affected your mental health, including anxiety, depression, trauma symptoms, panic, flashbacks, nightmares, self-harm or suicidal thoughts?	I think i do have anxiety, i do not leave the house and do not talk to people or doctors unless i absolutely have to. I still have nightmares of being there and wake up in a panic and a sweat. The memories are that bad i will not have a sunday dinner with my family because it brings back memories of being forced to eat them each sunday with plates of carrots and other things we did not like.
How has it affected physical health, sleep, pain, alcohol or substance use?	I only get 3 or four hours of sleep. I have not had any alcohol or substance abuse but when i drink i am not well for weeks afterward, i cant make sense of the tv or anything. I spoke to my doctor and he said its severe past trauma that comes out when i drink alcohol
How has it affected relationships, parenting, friendships, intimacy, trust or isolation?	It has affected a lot, I have no friends that i go out with because i do not trust people to talk. Even the thought of leaving the house puts me in a panic, i cant even just go to the park with my kids.

Question / prompt	Response / notes
How has it affected education, work, confidence, opportunities, finances, housing or day-to-day stability?	as im on benefits. I don't sleep until 4am and wake up again 8am. I can not fall asleep without being that tired when watching something i just pass out
Are there triggers, places, smells, authority figures, institutions or situations you avoid?	I do not leave the house so avoid most if not all situations. On time i saw john when i was shopping in asda and i just froze with rage, my partner had to drop all the shopping and get me out of the shop.
What impact has this had on your life overall, and what do you think may have been different if it had not happened?	I feel like this has impacted everything with not leaving the house, its impacted who i am today and impacted the people around me after i went through the abuse

9. Support and treatment

Question / prompt	Response / notes
Have you received counselling, therapy, mental health, addiction, GP, hospital or other professional support?	No, i think i went to see a psychiatrist but i do not remember this at all
Have you been diagnosed with any relevant condition, and have you taken any related medication?	No, i refuse to go to the doctor.
Are you receiving support now? If you delayed seeking help, what made it difficult?	No no medical support, the fear of John and isabels punishments made us not speak up at all

10. Evidence and supporting information

Question / prompt	Response / notes
What records may support the statement: care, social work, school, medical, police, counselling, prison/probation, benefits or other records?	Social care records, GP records
Are there records of injuries, running away, behaviour or school changes, self-harm, substance use, complaints, moves or family contact issues?	no
Are there letters, photographs, reports, inquiry evidence, apologies, decisions or previous correspondence?	no
Could any sibling, former resident, relative, friend, partner or professional provide a supporting statement?	Sister - Stacey Mcculloch
Are records missing or incomplete, and has an evidence bundle already been obtained?	no

11. Previous claims, applications or payments

Question / prompt	Response / notes
Have you previously made any civil claim, criminal injuries claim, Redress application, complaint, police report, inquiry statement or claim to another scheme about this abuse?	no
Did you receive any payment, apology, settlement or decision, or sign any waiver/discharge? Do you have copies?	no

12. Reason for applying

Question / prompt	Response / notes
Why are you applying to the Scottish Redress Scheme, and what would you like to come from telling your story?	I am hoping this will give my family financial stability. Hopefully this helps other people aswell.

Question / prompt	Response / notes
What would acknowledgement mean to you?	It doesn't change what happened so i dont know
Is there anything else you want Redress Scotland to understand about what happened or the harm you have lived with?	No i think i covered it all.

13. Closing and welfare check

Question / prompt	Response / notes
Is there anything important we have not covered, or wording you want handled carefully?	No i think we covered everything
How are you feeling after discussing this, and do you feel safe to end the call?	Yes
Is there someone you can contact for support, or would you like support service details?	My partner
Have the next steps been explained?	

Back-office drafting checklist - not asked aloud

Check	Completed
Statement is in the client's own words where possible.	☐
Chronology and each relevant institution are clear.	☐
Relevant abuse/neglect types are identified without unnecessary repetition.	☐
At least one clear example and the most serious incident are recorded.	☐
Frequency, duration, people involved, witnesses and reporting are addressed.	☐
Immediate and long-term impact are addressed once across the whole statement.	☐
Evidence, previous claims/payments and memory gaps are recorded.	☐
Client has reviewed amendments and signed the statement of truth.	☐

Statement of truth / declaration

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

Signed	Name	Date