

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	Paul Ryan Carroll
Date of birth	12/04/1984
Current address	13 Maimhor Road
Application reference	APP473971
Statement taker / interviewer	Daniel Asprey
Date and method of meeting	14/08/2026
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?	I grew up in glasgow with my mother, father and older brother
What was home life like before care? Include any family, health, education or social work difficulties that are relevant.	Happy home, had loved and was cared for quite well in society
How did you come to enter care, who made the decision, and were you told why?	I was charged with an assault, back then we were young offenders Glasgow sheriff court made the decision.
Did you have siblings, and were you separated from any of them?	Yes my brother
How old were you when you first entered care, and how did you feel at the time?	I felt fearful, it was a daunting setting barlinie, i do not think i should of been put in that setting as a young man
Is there anything important about your childhood health, learning needs, vulnerability or name history that should be recorded?	no

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	HMP Barlinnie	81 Lee Avenue, Riddrie, Glasgow, G33 2QX.	21 Jan 2002 - 29 Jan 2003 17 years old	Glasgow Sherrif county	
2					
3					
4					
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	HMP Barlinnie Jan 2002 - Feb 2003
What type of setting was it, and how long were you there?	Prison setting, 9 days
In a few sentences, what was ordinary daily life like: accommodation, routines, school/work, food, clothing, hygiene and contact with family?	I never slept well trying to adjust to the life in prison, small kits were provided for clothes but these were dirty and had skid marks on them. 23 hours a day we would spend in our cell only 1 hour allowed out the cell for exercise. The food provided for had pubic hairs
How did staff and other children generally treat you? Were there rules, punishments, isolation or unsafe arrangements?	Not very good to be honest, the other prisoners were just bullying me as i was a new arriver. The prison officers would make fun of me, had one of them make comments about my penis being small. Locked up with other drug users. Another inmate urinated in my shoe so i was unable to wear it and there were no facilities to wash this.
Did anything happen there that you now consider abuse, neglect or harmful? ☐ Sexual ☐ Physical ☐ Emotional ☐ Neglect ☐ Other	Neglect - I suffered in silence, the clothes i was receiving were dirty, underwear had skid marks, fearful of cleaning myself in the showers, the food i was receiving was on dirty plates and had pubes in them. Emotional abuse - bullying from inmates and guards by being called names, being locked in my cell with no one else for 23 hours. Physical abuse - i was attacked on the bus on the way to the prison, there was lots of bullying going on then when people realised i was a new arrival they turned on me, when i said something back to them one of them jumped on my and punched me. I was at recreation one night, playing pool and i cant remember what was said but another man attacked me. They got in to trouble of the officers An officer attacked me when i was on the buzzer to use the phone and he jumped on me he elbowed me, grabbed me by the throat and pushed me against the cell wall. Sexual abuse - an officer would make comments about my penis when coming out of the shower Another officer would grab his penis in front of me and say 'what would you do to that if you got it' In the shower room the other older men that are 30/40 years old would make fun of me and call me names sexually
Who was involved or responsible? Include names, roles, descriptions, staff or other children where remembered.	The officers at barlinnie
Give one clear example of what happened. Where and when did it occur, and what happened before, during and afterwards?	That tim with the prison officer attacked me when i was trying to use the phone, i kept pressing the button for the buzzer to use the phone, he would keep looking at me through the spy hole and laughing at me, after i continued pressing the buzzer he came in and elbowed me in the face, grabbed me on the throat and told me i told you to stop pressing that buzzer, this happened in my cell in the afternoon
How often did this happen, over what period, and did it change or become worse?	Very often it was rife, i think it was becoming worse
What immediate effects did you experience: pain/injury, fear, shame, sleep problems, bedwetting, running away, behaviour or school changes?	I never slept after these things happened, i was traumatized, being isolated, it was a horrible affect on my mental health, i became very anxious and tried to stay away from anyone, constantly on high alert and fearful
Did anyone witness it, know about it, or experience something similar?	A lot of the boys in there aswell were getting the same sort of treatment from the guards, these guards are supposed to protect you and they are abusing you
Did you tell anyone or try to get help? What response did you receive? If not, why not?	No i couldnt tell anybody because i didnt want my family knowing about what i was going through. I felt that i could not speak to any of the other prison officers about it, i was just hoping it would go away. There was a lot of drug taking i was exposed to as a young man
What was different at this placement compared with the others?	n/a

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.

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.	The prison officers and the other inmates but mostly the officers as they had a duty of care to look after me but i did not get that
Were other children affected, and did you witness abuse or harm to anyone else?	Yes I definitely saw other inmates getting the same sort of treatment
Why do you believe staff or the institution knew, or should have known, what was happening?	There were no changes happening, all the prison officers knew about it and i saw them participate in all different ways
Were complaints discouraged, ignored or punished? Were you moved, threatened or disbelieved?	If i was to make any sort of formal complaint i know that i would of just got worse treatment.
Have you ever reported the abuse to police, an inquiry, a professional or any authority? What happened?	No but i have shared it with my recovery sponsor

7. Movement between placements and leaving care

Question / prompt	Response / notes
Why did you move between placements, and were the reasons explained?	I always thought it was because of the crime I committed
Did you run away, refuse to return or ask to be moved? What happened?	No i never had that option
When and at what age did you leave care, and what were your circumstances afterwards?	36 i left the prison system, i was battling with addictions and substance abuse after being shown this in prison.

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?	It affected every part of my life, i was fearful and it made me feel very low, these traumatics experience affect me heavily. I never got any education by the system, the system failed me. Its affected me dramatically, i suffered in silence for years not able to speak up. Any relationship i have had such as my family, partners and my daughter it has affected them all.
How has it affected your mental health, including anxiety, depression, trauma symptoms, panic, flashbacks, nightmares, self-harm or suicidal thoughts?	I have had anxiety and depression my whole life, my doctors repost will tell you that, i take anti - depressants every day. I have to take tablets to get to sleep or the events will run over in my head of what happened. I have tried to take my own life on a couple of occasions.
How has it affected physical health, sleep, pain, alcohol or substance use?	I turned to alcoholism to deal with the pain that i was enduring mentally, i am still an alcoholic and abuse drugs, the trauma causes me deep pain. I have to go to trauma counseling because of what i experienced
How has it affected relationships, parenting, friendships, intimacy, trust or isolation?	Sometimes i struggle to have a free life without being demented by the past, i canny give myself to my family because i canny open up
How has it affected education, work, confidence, opportunities, finances, housing or day-to-day stability?	I stil stay with my mother and father just because it is a safe place for me. I do not feel safe in society.
Are there triggers, places, smells, authority figures, institutions or situations you avoid?	Definitely, i barely leave my house, i cant watch anything on tele about prisons, load noises can trigger me and take me back to that place in my head.

Question / prompt	Response / notes
What impact has this had on your life overall, and what do you think may have been different if it had not happened?	Its had a dramatic impact on my life, made me live with shame and fear all of my life. I dont know if i will ever change, i live in these memories. It has restricted my to become my full potential. Always felt less. A bit more concern for my own welfare.

9. Support and treatment

Question / prompt	Response / notes
Have you received counselling, therapy, mental health, addiction, GP, hospital or other professional support?	Yes, counciling for mental health, had mental health nurse, occupational therapist. Trauma counciling.
Have you been diagnosed with any relevant condition, and have you taken any related medication?	PTSD - metazapine Depression and anxiety - metazapnie every night. Propanonal, sertraline
Are you receiving support now? If you delayed seeking help, what made it difficult?	Have a support of the fellowship, support of a trauma counciler. The abuse made it hard for me to seek help. I didn't want to feel weak.

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?	
Are there records of injuries, running away, behaviour or school changes, self-harm, substance use, complaints, moves or family contact issues?	n/a
Are there letters, photographs, reports, inquiry evidence, apologies, decisions or previous correspondence?	n
Could any sibling, former resident, relative, friend, partner or professional provide a supporting statement?	no
Are records missing or incomplete, and has an evidence bundle already been obtained?	

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?	Obviously i am able to talk about this now because i am in recovery. I want people to know what was happening to me and other people there. These people had a duty of care. I want to make sure this doesnt happen to any one else
What would acknowledgement mean to you?	It's not going to make much difference to me but maybe i will be able to do something with my daughter.

Question / prompt	Response / notes
Is there anything else you want Redress Scotland to understand about what happened or the harm you have lived with?	I want them to understand that's what's going on behind these doors is not acceptable and should not be tolerated in this day and age.

13. Closing and welfare check

Question / prompt	Response / notes
Is there anything important we have not covered, or wording you want handled carefully?	no
How are you feeling after discussing this, and do you feel safe to end the call?	Feel flat but yes
Is there someone you can contact for support, or would you like support service details?	Yes my mother
Have the next steps been explained?	yes

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