

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	David Thompson
Date of birth	8 June 1984
Current address	2/2 90 Castlemilk Drive, Castlemilk, G45 9DS
Application reference	APP505373
Statement taker / interviewer	Leah Pearson - Claims handler
Date and method of meeting	20/08 - phonecall
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,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 with my mother and step father. Scotland till 5, Greece for some real father is Greek. Moved to England after mum met step father 1989-90. Ian Thompson step, Demitirie Savagis (father, found through social work department). London.
What was home life like before care? Include any family, health, education or social work difficulties that are relevant.	House. Mother was alcoholic, mix of me being a problem child and mothers alcohol. The house wasn't the best, chaotic, and got leathered with a wooden spoon.
How did you come to enter care, who made the decision, and were you told why?	Cant remember if on the run or Orchid Lodge crystal palace. Open unit and secure. I was in an open residence. Brought from England to Scotland after being caught by police running away. Never explicitly told why.
Did you have siblings, and were you separated from any of them?	I have 4 brothers, I am the oldest. None of my siblings were born until I was in care. Never in care together with them.
How old were you when you first entered care, and how did you feel at the time?	10/11 first in care. 14 in the Scottish care system. Scared, it was fostered at first in London. When I went back to Scotland the accent was the driving point.
Is there anything important about your childhood health, learning needs, vulnerability or name history that should be recorded?	N

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
	Springboig St John's Residential school		14/8/1998- 14	East dunbartonshire	
	Oakbank School, Aberdeen		11/3/1999 -15		
	St Mary's Kenmure, Bishopbriggs		1/4/1999- 15		

No.	Care setting / institution	Location	Approx. dates / age	Placing authority	Notes / source
	HillHead House		31/7/2000-16		

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	Springboig St John's Residential school 14/8/1998 - 14yo
What type of setting was it, and how long were you there?	7 months - residential school
In a few sentences, what was ordinary daily life like: accommodation, routines, school/work, food, clothing, hygiene and contact with family?	My own bedroom, 2 units, I was in the bottom unit. Games room. Shared facilities. Go to school everyday, 5-10 per class. Food can't remember. Clothing grant given. Toiletries given i think. On and off contact with family.
How did staff and other children generally treat you? Were there rules, punishments, isolation or unsafe arrangements?	Staff were pretty bad, some were worse than others. Treated me bad because i was english. Other children pretty bad treatment towards me. Can't remember any rules. Restrained as a punishment. Egg u on for argument then restrain u.
Did anything happen there that you now consider abuse, neglect or harmful? ☐ Sexual ☐ Physical ☐ Emotional ☐ Neglect ☐ Other	Night shift staff older man, maybe Cam? He would come in try talk to you feel you under the covers. It didn't go further but i heard other things. I only ever got touched i don't know why. Emotional abuse was because i was english. 100% emotionally abused. I wasn't a great child, they said things to try and get a reaction to restrain you or humiliate you.
Who was involved or responsible? Include names, roles, descriptions, staff or other children where remembered.	Staff restrained you. I got beat up a lot from the children.
Give one clear example of what happened. Where and when did it occur, and what happened before, during and afterwards?	Between 3-6 people. One on each arm, one with a knee on you. Arms and legs folded up back. My wrists were limp. One had your head. Carried or dragged into your room, locked in your room. Different timings but could be hours. Plenty of marks, blood vessels in my face popped from straining. Limbs go numb for a while from the bending. You couldn't get up and they would punch and kick while you were down and you couldn't see who it was because your head is held down.
How often did this happen, over what period, and did it change or become worse?	It happened a lot. At least happened weekly. Pretty much the same the whole way through

Question / prompt	Response / notes
What immediate effects did you experience: pain/injury, fear, shame, sleep problems, bedwetting, running away, behaviour or school changes?	Fearful everyday. Sleep problems. pain/injury restrained hurt. I tried running away a bit. Aught would be arrested and taken back. It made me feel ashamed of being English.
Did anyone witness it, know about it, or experience something similar?	100% of the people knew what was going on. Not every staff would do it, but they knew.
Did you tell anyone or try to get help? What response did you receive? If not, why not?	No - I didn't think anyone would listen, I was a problem child.
What was different at this placement compared with the others?	Alone - the sexual abuse.

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.

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	Oakbank school - 1/5/1999 15yo
What type of setting was it, and how long were you there?	3 weeks - emergency placement
In a few sentences, what was ordinary daily life like: accommodation, routines, school/work, food, clothing, hygiene and contact with family?	N
How did staff and other children generally treat you? Were there rules, punishments, isolation or unsafe arrangements?	N
Did anything happen there that you now consider abuse, neglect or harmful? [y] Sexual [y] Physical [y] Emotional [] Neglect [] Other	N
Who was involved or responsible? Include names, roles, descriptions, staff or other children where remembered.	N
Give one clear example of what happened. Where and when did it occur, and what happened before, during and afterwards?	N
How often did this happen, over what period, and did it change or become worse?	N

Question / prompt	Response / notes
What immediate effects did you experience: pain/injury, fear, shame, sleep problems, bedwetting, running away, behaviour or school changes?	N
Did anyone witness it, know about it, or experience something similar?	N
Did you tell anyone or try to get help? What response did you receive? If not, why not?	N
What was different at this placement compared with the others?	N

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	St Mary's Kenmure, Bishopbriggs 1/4/1999 - 16yo
What type of setting was it, and how long were you there?	15 month - secure unit Yellow Unit
In a few sentences, what was ordinary daily life like: accommodation, routines, school/work, food, clothing, hygiene and contact with family?	Own bedroom, like a cell. A locked room, locked in at night. Bed small desk, plastic window. I dont remember but there mustve been a toilet in it. Seemed clean enough. Awake in morning, breakfast, set classes if good enough to go to school, finish then back to room while staff changed over then out for dinner. Each unit had access to central area one night at a time then back to bed and locked in. fod, remember it was set times. I remember a kitchen in the units. I vaguely remember toiletries being provided.
How did staff and other children generally treat you? Were there rules, punishments, isolation or unsafe arrangements?	I know all things would be taken out of your room until you'd calmed down. Good staff bad staff, i remember good staff. Staff ran in packs. Youd have some with arseholes who restrained you for fun and i rebelled against the staff. Other children, started to try lose my accent, got slapped for having a twang, made some friends.
Did anything happen there that you now consider abuse, neglect or harmful? ☐ Sexual ☐ Physical ☐ Emotional ☐ Neglect ☐ Other	Physical abuse - heavy handed restraining. They called it TCI Restraining. Dragged out overtime. They cross your legs and push them against your bum. Its agony, top 10 pains of my life. You push against because of the pain cant do anything else. Emotional abuse - being english i got teased. Theyd humiliate me infront of children, the others carried it on and this lead to the battering.
Who was involved or responsible? Include names, roles, descriptions, staff or other children where remembered.	Staff members and other kids.
Give one clear example of what happened. Where and when did it occur, and what happened before, during and afterwards?	Stephanie had kicked off and she kicked on of the windows and i jumped out and stole a set of keys. I got restrained and kneed right outside unit door, my ribs were badly injured. My unit was the first on the right hand side. I would guess 4-5 staff restrained me. Knead in the ribs. I constantly had bruises. You were flung to the floor and pushed down. Scratches, sore wrists, my ribs felt broken at times. I rather they hit me in the face, ribs hurt lots
How often did this happen, over what period, and did it change or become worse?	A lot more often, they had a shorter fuse here. Towards the end it happened but less often i was a bit older
What immediate effects did you experience: pain/injury, fear, shame, sleep problems, bedwetting, running away, behaviour or school changes?	Tried to run away didnt want to be there. Absconded as much as i could pain/injury, sore wrists and back and ribs, face sometimes

Question / prompt	Response / notes
	Fear, same as st johns. Ope unit was less fearful but secure unit i was always on edge Shame for being english and embarrassed Behaviour got worse here, i was seeing things i never saw before. Started stealing cars with another boy from the unit.
Did anyone witness it, know about it, or experience something similar?	The other children would see and you would see others being. Seen being rugby tackled to floor by 2 staff, they set off a pinpoint alarm, more staff got on top of you.
Did you tell anyone or try to get help? What response did you receive? If not, why not?	Dont remember ever saying something but i probably did. I imagine i did tell people.
What was different at this placement compared with the others?	This girl strangled her sister, Stephanie Shevosky from Paisley used a dressing gown robe 1988. 15 when she killed her sister. Joe Maggregor, stabbed someone in the neck with a glass bottle of lucozade. Other kids here locked up for murder, rape, they couldnt go to prison so went here. Secure setting. Cut off from the world. Effectively , a children's prison

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	HillHead House 31/7/2000 - 16
What type of setting was it, and how long were you there?	Adults place, transitional house. Office with staf who could help but had own flat. 2 units.
In a few sentences, what was ordinary daily life like: accommodation, routines, school/work, food, clothing, hygiene and contact with family?	Wasnt a clean place Wasnt unlivable Individual. Come an go as you please but you couldnt stay out the night Given more independence
How did staff and other children generally treat you? Were there rules, punishments, isolation or unsafe arrangements?	Staff were alright.
Did anything happen there that you now consider abuse, neglect or harmful? ☐ Sexual ☐ Physical ☐ Emotional ☐ Neglect ☐ Other	N
Who was involved or responsible? Include names, roles, descriptions, staff or other children where remembered.	N
Give one clear example of what happened. Where and when did it occur, and what happened before, during and afterwards?	N
How often did this happen, over what period, and did it change or become worse?	N

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

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.	Cam - vague but thinks night shift member
Were other children affected, and did you witness abuse or harm to anyone else?	I heard stuff going on at night in St Johns, screaming, pain. Saw some kids being beaten up
Why do you believe staff or the institution knew, or should have known, what was happening?	Because it's their job too.
Were complaints discouraged, ignored or punished? Were you moved, threatened or disbelieved?	Yes, punished. Yes, i couldnt put my finger on it but i was disbelieved. Moved quite a bit
Have you ever reported the abuse to police, an inquiry, a professional or any authority? What happened?	Never, no

7. Movement between placements and leaving care

Question / prompt	Response / notes
Why did you move between placements, and were the reasons explained?	Wasn't my decision. Made on my behalf, no choice. Mightve been, dont remember.
Did you run away, refuse to return or ask to be moved? What happened?	Yes, my MO was running away.
When and at what age did you leave care, and what were your circumstances afterwards?	17 yo, homeless accom, prison, homeless, met ex partner had kids.

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?	Never felt safe, didnt trust everybody. Knocked my confidence picked on for accent and greek big nose Bad behaviour and education. Loved maths, class of 5 st marys, down to the way staff treated you. No standard grades. Zero qualifications. Affected relationships to this day. I'm pretty cold so to speak. I think from care i have no issue speaking up now.
How has it affected your mental health, including anxiety, depression, trauma symptoms, panic, flashbacks, nightmares, self-harm or suicidal thoughts?	Depression bouts Flashbacks - especially night shift st johns person Nightmares Tried suicide in cre a few times. Rough couple years, found another brother dead.
How has it affected physical health, sleep, pain, alcohol or substance use?	Not big drinker now but in teens yes Something used in teens to deal with it all Substance use - cannabis, cocaine, eccys Cannabis dependant
How has it affected relationships, parenting, friendships, intimacy, trust or isolation?	Parenting - never had nurture from mothe and father. Friendships- always small circle dont trust many people Intimacy - when i was younger yes, not so much now I shut off from everybody to deal
How has it affected education, work, confidence, opportunities, finances, housing or day-to-day stability?	Zero qualifications. Never worked until 30's. 15 years different jobs variations. Wouldnt have criminal record if not for care.

Question / prompt	Response / notes
	Homeless multiple times. My son lives with me. Cach surfed, hostels. Something i put away years ago
Are there triggers, places, smells, authority figures, institutions or situations you avoid?	I try stay away from passing where st johns was. I dont have good memories. Other side of glasgow, small town.
What impact has this had on your life overall, and what do you think may have been different if it had not happened?	Gave me the worst possible start in life, mentally scarred from years of mental and physical abuse. Only started getting life together in 20's/ early 30s. I wouldve had a better start in life, mightv went down a different path.

9. Support and treatment

Question / prompt	Response / notes
Have you received counselling, therapy, mental health, addiction, GP, hospital or other professional support?	N
Have you been diagnosed with any relevant condition, and have you taken any related medication?	N
Are you receiving support now? If you delayed seeking help, what made it difficult?	N

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?	n/a
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/a
Could any sibling, former resident, relative, friend, partner or professional provide a supporting statement?	No - brother wants to do own claim
Are records missing or incomplete, and has an evidence bundle already been obtained?	n/a

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?	N
Did you receive any payment, apology, settlement or decision, or sign any waiver/discharge? Do you have copies?	N

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?	Justice for the mistreatment I experienced. For them to take some responsibility.
What would acknowledgement mean to you?	A bit of closure, i don't know if it will but maybe a full stop. It's something. You feel as if you went wrong.

Question / prompt	Response / notes
Is there anything else you want Redress Scotland to understand about what happened or the harm you have lived with?	no

13. Closing and welfare check

Question / prompt	Response / notes
Is there anything important we have not covered, or wording you want handled carefully?	N, N
How are you feeling after discussing this, and do you feel safe to end the call?	Feel as if a weight off my shoulders. It feels weird. safe
Is there someone you can contact for support, or would you like support service details?	Yes - brother
Have the next steps been explained?	Y

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