

WITNESS STATEMENT OF PATRICK BISHOP

Application to The Scottish Redress Scheme

Applicant: Mr Patrick bishop

Date of Birth: 10 May 1982

Application Reference: APP017149

Support Person Present: No

Background

1. My name is Patrick Bishop. My name in care was always Patrick Bishop.
2. My address is 23 Tannahill Grove, Paisley, PA3 1EH.
3. I make this statement in support of my application to The Scottish Redress Scheme.
4. The contents of this statement are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. Where I cannot remember exact dates or details, I have made this clear. I confirm I have provided as much detail as I am able to recall.
5. I understand that this statement will be considered as part of my application, together with my application forms and any supporting documents or records provided.
6. Where necessary, I have exhibited extracts of the supporting documents obtained to this statement to support my application.
7. I am happy for this statement to be submitted to the Scottish Redress Inquiry.
8. I do not need any support to conduct this statement today and I do not need anybody with me to complete the statement.
9. I understand the purpose of this statement and that it is in support of my Scottish Redress Application.

10. I was placed into care whilst under the age of 16. The care setting was based in Renfrewshire.
11. I was approximately 10 years old when I went into care.
12. I know who placed me into care and why I was placed into care. I wasn't told why but I knew.
13. The placements I was in were boys schools and childrens homes.

Life before care

14. I grew up with my Mum and Gran and spent my time before care between their flats.
15. I shared a bedroom with my brother.
16. My mum is an alcoholic. I was in primary school but I was hardly there. I never did High School either.
17. My father was in and out of jail.
18. My gran died when I was young. My mum put us into a Boy's Home.
19. I have 6 siblings, 3 brothers and 3 sisters. I am the middle child.

Entry Into Care

20. We were all separated but I did spend 2 months in Beech Avenue with my brother Kevin.
21. I never really thought about how I felt going into care, I just missed my siblings and was sad because my gran had died.
22. I was very close with my gran, she was always there for me until she got cancer.

Detailed Account of Each Care Setting

Gryffe Children's Home - 12/02/1992, 2 years

23. There was a big house and a small house. I was in a big house which had 2 floors.
24. The house was long at the back. I still went to school but I had no contact with my mum here.
25. I don't remember much as it was so long ago.
26. Some of the staff were okay and some weren't, there's always a mixture.
27. I experienced physical abuse whilst in Gryffe. You would be thrown into your room and locked in.
28. You always felt bad after, you had no food or water when you were locked in your room. There was no toilet either. It was like a prison.
29. You'd be covered in bruises from being grabbed.
30. It was only a few staff members who would do this. You would always get some that were alright, some that were arseholes and some that should have been in jail.
31. It was a regular occurrence, the same thing each time.
32. You had to go to the toilet in your pants or on the floor. You had no other choice. I'd wet the bed after. Some staff would help but you wouldn't really get much comfort.
33. I used to try to run away because of the fear it gave me. You never get a full night's sleep.
34. Many people witnessed the abuse but I was too young to fully remember everything.
35. I told the nicer staff what was happening but I was never believed.
36. Gryffe was one of the worst homes I was in.

Beech Avenue Children's Home - 26/04/1994, 2 years

37. Beech Avenue was 2 houses knocked into 1. It had 2 floors.

38. I had my own bedroom on the top floor. There were about 10 of us in the home. We shared the bathrooms.
39. There was a couple on the top floor and a couple on the bottom floor.
40. The food was alright, i cant remember too much but i know we ate together at the table.
41. I still attended school while here. I know I got no new clothes here and had no contact with my family.
42. The staff were actually pretty nice, I remember Mr Rankin who owned the home also owned a fruit shop, he would sometimes take us out for fresh fruit.
43. The children were okay, I remember a couple of them being Elizabeth, Sharron and Kevin, my younger brother.
44. Beech Avenue was the best home I had.

Newfield Resource Centre, Campsie Unit - 17/06/1994, 6 Months

45. I was in Newfield for around 6 months.
46. I remember it had 4-5 units and about 6 or more people in a unit. It was a residential area for girls and boys. I was in both the Campsie unit and the South unit.
47. It was like a house. I had my own bedroom and shared a bathroom with the other boys.
48. The food was okay from what I can remember.
49. We only had baths here, no showers.
50. I still had no contact with my family.
51. Both the staff and children were a mix of some being nice and some not.
52. I experienced neglect and physical abuse while here.

53. The neglect I received was never being reminded to wash or bathe. They should have been reminding us but they didn't.
54. The physical abuse I endured was that of grabbing, throwing and hitting.
55. The physical abuse was at the hands of the staff. They would throw you in your room, isolate you and batter you.
56. One clear time I can remember was in a private section of the unit. A male staff member grabbed me, threw me in my room. He whacked me with his hand, he actually punched me in the face. It left a bruise. He locked me in my room for a few hours.
57. When the staff let me out I told them he wacked me but he had told them I fell and they believed him.
58. When you are that young no one believes you.
59. This happened a couple of times. It was the same each time, the same staff too.
60. It happened to a few people there. I saw it happening to others and others saw it happening to me.
61. I was still wetting the bed in Newfield, some staff would help me but others would leave me to deal with it.
62. I still had sleep problems and the fear but also experienced pain and injury because of the abuse.
63. I couldn't take it in this setting, I didn't like it at all.

Balrossie School, Residential - 09/12/1994, 1 year 11 months

64. Balrossie was a residential D Listed School. It had 5 houses within the grounds.

65. I didn't have my own room in this home but a dormitory instead which I shared with 4 other boys. There was 1 big bathroom shared between 30 of us with showers, urinals and sinks.
66. I still went to school as it was within the grounds.
67. The food was actually quite nice, we had breakfast in our dorms, lunch in the main canteen and dinner in our units. We were given options at lunchtime and often went shopping with the staff for the food for supper.
68. The staff were again a mix of half nice staff and half arseholes. The kids however were a mix but the 4 you shared a dorm with you had to get on. There wasn't really a choice.
69. There were a few rules though i cant really remember but there were punishments.
70. I experienced physical abuse and neglect here.
71. The abuse happened every now and then but it did change staff, there was different staff who would do the same thing.
72. The staff would hit you, throw you about and lock you in your room.
73. One key instance that has stuck with me was when I was in the bathroom about the shower. I had plain blue pyjama pants on but that was all.
74. It happened because I was refusing to go to school.
75. I remember his name. Derek. He came into the bathroom and bounced my head off the shower tiles, he grabbed me by the throat and told me to get a lash. A wash. I had a shower and went to school.
76. I had bruises everywhere. I didn't want to deal with him. He was evil.
77. I hated the place. The fear and the shame that came with it. I was still wetting the bed but I had to deal with it alone.

78. There were some good staff like Jimmy Williams and Thomas Shutty who were very nice men.
79. But there were still the bad ones like Derek, Charles Long and Thomas McCallum who were famous for hitting people. They were the main abusers.
80. I did try to tell people what was happening but no one believed you when you told the head teachers. You just get knocked back because they are teachers.
81. I only liked the food here, I'm glad it is shut.

Kibble Residential Establishment, Edge North - 26/06/1997, +1 year

82. Kibble was a Boys Residential School. I had my own bedroom here and there were 4 separate units.
83. There was a routine in Kibble. You had to wake up at 7am, have a shower, have breakfast and get ready for school.
84. You wore your own clothing to school. I even had a clothing grant here and could buy whatever you wanted as long as it wasn't football clothes.
85. The food was nice, we were given a choice and the options were good.
86. We ate meals together in the canteen in the unit.
87. School was okay. There were only 6 of us in the class.
88. Sometimes my mum phoned in but she was always drunk so I asked the staff not to answer. I would get to go and see my Gran though.
89. The staff were a mix but most were ok. The children were the same.
90. They were relaxed with rules and there weren't many punishments.
91. My bed wetting eased off because I felt safer here.
92. I liked a lot of the staff, I had a sleep problem for the first few months but was eventually fine.

93. This was the best home I was placed in, I felt safe for the first time in a long time.

94. It wasn't what people made it out to be.

People Involved, Reporting and Institutional Knowledge

95. Across all placements, the main people involved in the abuse were Derek, Charles Long and Thomas McCallum.

96. I witnessed this abuse happen to a few people in homes. You witness it from a young age being in these homes.

97. A few homes in the local authority knew about the abuse but they just couldn't prove it. I'm aware that Balrossie was under investigation.

98. My complaints were ignored and threatened with discipline.

99. I never made any report to the police.

Movement between and Leaving Care

100. They never explained to me why I was being moved, I never liked being moved either. You were never able to settle.

101. I ran away a few times.

102. One time 5 of us ran from Balrossie in our pyjamas, hopped on a train to Port Glasgow and from Port Glasgow to Ferguslie to my Aunties house. The police caught us and returned us to Balrossie. I just didn't like it, I hated it.

103. I left care at 16/17 years old and was released to my gran's.

104. I stayed with my gran for 2 months before I got my own house.

105. You get no support when you leave, I think you should be supported after leaving. Just nothing.

Impact On Life Past/Present/Future

106. My whole experience in care has stuck with me. Mentally, it is always in my brain.
107. That's the reason I turned to alcohol, so I don't have to think about it all.
108. It is one of these things you want to forget but you can't.
109. I suffer from flashbacks, nightmares and panic attacks.
110. The mental aspect is the thing people don't understand.
111. I have experienced suicidal thoughts.
112. I am alcohol dependent, it is my pain killer.
113. I have damaged my stomach lining through my alcohol usage but I have never taken drugs or thought about taking drugs.
114. I take sleeping tablets to help me sleep.
115. I don't really have relationships and haven't got many friends because i dont trust anyone.
116. I'm a loner.
117. I don't tell anyone much of what happened but it does affect you, i feel it is better keeping things to myself.
118. I keep to myself, I don't go out much as I'm not really a socialiser.
119. I'd rather sit in the house than speak to people.
120. My confidence is low at times.
121. I think care homes should be shut down.
122. Being in care has affected everything for me. I don't work as I am on disability. It all sticks with you.

123. I don't like private places like council offices or the doctors because there's lots of people around me. I avoid contact with people because of what I went through and the aftermath.
124. I've not got a life to be honest. My life is lonely. I keep myself to myself.
125. I don't want to socialise. Maybe I would have had a career or a family. More of a normal life if I hadn't been put in care.

Support and treatment

126. I have had no professional help because I keep myself to myself.
127. I take many medications including Amitryptiline for sleep.

Supporting Evidence & Records

128. I understand that records and documents may be considered alongside this statement. I have exhibited, as necessary, documents to this statement.
129. I have also provided a bundle of evidence in addition to this statement, these are all of the relevant documents my legal representatives have been able to obtain on my behalf, from relevant institutions, local authorities, and medical practices.
130. Some records may be incomplete, missing, or unavailable due to the passage of time. Where records are missing, I ask that my own account still be considered carefully. I have done all in my power, with the assistance of my legal representative, to obtain and provide as much evidence as possible.
131. I have had my legal representative to redact any information that's not relevant to my Scottish Redress Application.

Difficulties with Memory and Gaps in Evidence

132. The events described happened many years ago. Some dates, names and details are difficult for me to remember.
133. My memory has also been affected by the trauma of what happened to me.
134. Where I have used approximate dates or descriptions, I have done so honestly and to the best of my recollection.
135. I have not intentionally exaggerated or included anything that I do not believe to be true.

Previous claims, applications or payments

136. I have not previously made any civil claim, criminal injuries claim, Redress application, complaint, police report, inquiry statement or claim to another scheme about this abuse.
137. I have not received any payment, apology, settlement or decision, or signed any waiver/discharge.

Why Am I Applying to the Scottish Redress Scheme

138. I'd like them to accept responsibility for not doing enough to help young people in care. They've done nothing to help. I want them to know what happened and for it to stop being ignored. It's in the past, present and the future. It's in your head and it's not something you can ignore. It's people's memories.
139. It would mean a lot for an apology. These homes should have been monitored more closely. The Scottish Government should take full responsibility. Compensation

and an apology is not enough, something should have been done back then.

Governments and Politics do not care about the public, that's all it is.

140. I want them to fully understand what happened and for it not to happen again.

Compensation is not enough. Money does not bring back your youth or give you your future. Your future is fucked.

Final Statement

141. I have never made a previous civil claim, criminal injury claim, Redress application, advance payment application, complaint, police report, inquiry statement, or claim to another scheme about this abuse.

142. I have never received any payment, apology, response or settlement in respect of my Scottish Redress claim or the abuse.

143. I have never signed any waiver, settlement agreement, discharge or acceptance form in respect of my Scottish Redress claim or the abuse.

144. I have tried to provide a full and honest account of my experiences to the best of my knowledge and belief. I ask that Redress Scotland consider this statement, my application forms and the supporting evidence I have submitted when determining my application.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Name: Mr Patrick Bishop

Signed:

Dated:

