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20th July 2026

**Redress Scotland**

apply@redress-scheme.scot

**By email/post:** Email

**Our Ref:** 100920

**Re:** Scottish Redress Application - Mr Colin James McKay

**DOB:** 5 September 1979

**Application Reference:** APP567348

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Covering Letter - Witness Statement and Supporting Exhibits**

We write in connection with the above Scottish Redress application. Please find enclosed the Witness Statement of Mr Colin James McKay, together with the supporting exhibits referred to within the statement.

The purpose of the witness statement is to provide Mr McKay's own account of his childhood care placements, the abuse and neglect he describes experiencing while in care, and the impact this has had on his childhood and adult life.

The statement is submitted in support of his application to The Scottish Redress Scheme and should be considered alongside the application form and supporting evidence bundle.

We respectfully draw attention to the fact that Mr McKay is a vulnerable applicant. His statement describes general anxiety, separation anxiety, panic attacks, suicidal thoughts, depression, flashbacks, nightmares, addiction and a history of substance misuse.

Mr McKay also explains that revisiting his childhood experiences has been distressing and triggering. We therefore ask that all communication and engagement with him is conducted sensitively, using a trauma-informed approach and through his appointed legal representatives wherever appropriate.

The statement explains that Mr McKay was placed into care in Scotland at approximately 11 years old. It records his background before care, the circumstances of his entry into care and his placements at Ailsa in 1992, Newfields Assessment Centre in 1994 and Geilsland in Longriggend from 1995 onwards.

In summary, the statement describes Mr McKay's account of physical and emotional abuse and neglect. This includes allegations of being hit, slapped, punched, kicked, thrown, pulled, stood and kneeled on, struck with objects, forcibly restrained, locked in rooms, isolated, threatened, humiliated and deprived of food or drink while being punished.

The statement records that these experiences occurred across his care placements, that other children were also affected and that the treatment became more severe as he grew older. It also records that complaints were discouraged and that concerns raised with staff did not result in effective protection or intervention.

The enclosed exhibits include care records relevant to Mr McKay's placement history, GP and mental-health records relevant to the impact described, medication evidence and related correspondence. Some records are redacted where appropriate and should be read together with his account.

The statement refers to Mr McKay having been prescribed Mirtazapine, Sertraline, Citalopram, Duloxetine, Nortriptyline, Amitriptyline, Zopiclone, Olanzapine and Gabapentin. These medications are referred to in the context of his reported anxiety, depression, OCD, panic attacks, sleep difficulties and wider mental-health history.

Mr McKay attributes his continuing anxiety, depression, panic attacks, flashbacks, nightmares and related difficulties to his experiences in care. The medication and treatment evidence may assist Redress Scotland when considering the claimed long-term impact. This is not intended as a medical opinion, but as a summary of the evidence and its relevance.

The statement also describes the effect of the alleged abuse on his education, employment, relationships, trust in authority, housing, finances, criminal involvement, addiction and substance misuse. It records that he continues to experience shame, guilt, fear and significant emotional distress.

We respectfully request that Redress Scotland considers the enclosed witness statement, exhibits, application documents and wider evidence bundle when determining Mr McKay's application.

## Brief overview of enclosed document

| Section / document part        | Brief contents                                                                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Witness statement              | Mr McKay's personal account in support of his Scottish Redress application.                                                                                           |
| Background and entry into care | Personal background, life before care, entry into care and family circumstances.                                                                                      |
| Care placement account         | Ailsa, Newfields Assessment Centre and Geilsland, including approximate dates, daily life, staff conduct, punishments and care arrangements.                          |
| Abuse, neglect and reporting   | Alleged physical and emotional abuse, neglect, excessive restraint, isolation, food deprivation, threats and reporting difficulties.                                  |
| Impact evidence                | Childhood and adult impact, including mental health, relationships, education, employment, flashbacks, nightmares, suicidal thoughts, addiction and substance misuse. |
| Supporting exhibits            | Care records, GP and mental-health records, medication evidence and related correspondence.                                                                           |
| Payment Authority Letter       | A signed mandate allowing MMA Legal, as my legal representative to obtain monies in their client account on my behalf.                                                |

Yours faithfully,

James Taylor - Claims Operations Manager

Investigations Team  
MMA Legal