

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	Marita Ross Barr
Date of birth	07 Apr 1961
Current address	42 Grizedale Road, Blackpool, FY4 4TL
Application reference	APP983014
Statement taker / interviewer	
Date and method of meeting	
Legal representative / organisation	
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?	yes
Do you need anyone with you, a break or any other adjustment?	no
Do you understand the purpose of the statement and agree that it may be used for your Scottish Redress application and supporting evidence?	Yes

2. Personal background and entry into care

Question / prompt	Response / notes
Where did you grow up, and who lived with you before care?	Cant remember
What was home life like before care? Include any family, health, education or social work difficulties that are relevant.	n/a
How did you come to enter care, who made the decision, and were you told why?	n/a was 2 years old
Did you have siblings, and were you separated from any of them?	sister - 3 Brother - 3 Separated from all apart from one brother (david)
How old were you when you first entered care, and how did you feel at the time?	2 years old Too young to remember
Is there anything important about your childhood health, learning needs, vulnerability or name history that should be recorded?	Cant spell Can read and write well enough

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
	Quarrier's Homes, Bridge of Weir - Home/Cottage 65		7 may 1963		
	Relative placement, then Crosslees Children's Home		Late 1963 - early 1964		
	Quarriers - Cottage 20		February 1968		
	Calder House Assessment Centre, Blantyre		October 1975		
	Tynepark School for Girls, Haddington		March 1976 23 January 1978		

No.	Care setting / institution	Location	Approx. dates / age	Placing authority	Notes / source

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	Quarrier's Homes, Bridge of Weir - Home/Cottage 65 1963
What type of setting was it, and how long were you there?	Children's home Cant remember thought id been there twice but apparently i was there 2/3 times 1968 - 2nd time in was a man and a woman
In a few sentences, what was ordinary daily life like: accommodation, routines, school/work, food, clothing, hygiene and contact with family?	Cant remember I think about it now they're a bunch of perverts Contact with family was cut off Cornflakes in the morning Clothing Went to watch a movie we had matching leggings Toiletries can't remember 1968
How did staff and other children generally treat you? Were there rules, punishments, isolation or unsafe arrangements?	Treated awfully Locked in a garden with a fence around it I used to sit on the bench Told to sit in the same position 1968
Did anything happen there that you now consider abuse, neglect or harmful? ☐ Sexual ☐ Physical ☐ Emotional ☐ Neglect ☐ Other	Never felt safe The woman would squeeze my wrist so it left marks and was sore. I would cry The male and female touched each other i was forced to watch They would give me sweets keep quiet and then call me a good girl They touched me in my private parts - both did it
Who was involved or responsible? Include names, roles, descriptions, staff or other children where remembered.	He was bald with glasses Saw him in edinburgh when i was 14 - i went mad it upset me and angered me
Give one clear example of what happened. Where and when did it occur, and what happened before, during and afterwards?	Top of the stairs in their bedroom. I think I know it wasn't my bed. They shut and locked the door
How often did this happen, over what period, and did it change or become worse?	I cant fully remember but i think once a week Same happened every time. Told me to stare at them to watch. She touched him he touched her then he touched me
What immediate effects did you experience: pain/injury, fear, shame, sleep problems, bedwetting, running away, behaviour or school changes?	I tried running away multiple times over a thin wire fence into the back field. Cows would chase me
Did anyone witness it, know about it, or experience something similar?	I wouldn't have imagined that the other kids were very young.
Did you tell anyone or try to get help? What response did you receive? If not, why not?	Yes- tried to tell my mum. I said he keeps touching me and she said dont be stupid he's just playing games.
What was different at this placement compared with the others?	The whole experience of family being ripped apart especially from my brother I was only a kid myself I can't remember everything 1968

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	Crosslees Children's Home 1963 - 1964
What type of setting was it, and how long were you there?	1 year
In a few sentences, what was ordinary daily life like: accommodation, routines, school/work, food, clothing, hygiene and contact with family?	
How did staff and other children generally treat you? Were there rules, punishments, isolation or unsafe arrangements?	
Did anything happen there that you now consider abuse, neglect or harmful? ☐ Sexual ☐ Physical ☐ Emotional ☐ Neglect ☐ Other	
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?	

Question / prompt	Response / notes
Institution name, location, approximate dates / age and who placed you there	Calder House Assessment Centre, Blantyre 1975
What type of setting was it, and how long were you there?	Assessment centre - 5 months

Question / prompt	Response / notes
In a few sentences, what was ordinary daily life like: accommodation, routines, school/work, food, clothing, hygiene and contact with family?	Girls downstairs and boys Upstairs, separate rooms. Separate washroom and separate toilet Cant remember the food Clothing i think i had my own i dont know where i got them
How did staff and other children generally treat you? Were there rules, punishments, isolation or unsafe arrangements?	Punished constantly They put a cross on my wrist, a stick tattoo scrubbed with a brillo pad until I was bleeding. Brownish hair stalky always looked down would never see his face like a pe teacher 5 of us at a time ad to stand in a hall and hold heavy books and would get a dig if your arms came down Reminded me of hitler
Did anything happen there that you now consider abuse, neglect or harmful? ☐ Sexual ☐ Physical ☒ Emotional ☐ Neglect ☐ Other	Physical and emotional abuse. It mentally and physically got to me. Humiliation - expected to hold a book in each hand for half the night if you let them drop you would be dug in the back with a stick, maybe a walking stick. Tried to escape but caught i smashed a window with a chair we got punished - poked in side and back forced to hold books
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?	Running away
How often did this happen, over what period, and did it change or become worse?	Happened often - 3-4 hours then sent to bed
What immediate effects did you experience: pain/injury, fear, shame, sleep problems, bedwetting, running away, behaviour or school changes?	Running away, sore shoulders, never slept much. I couldn't sleep out of fear and wanting to run away.
Did anyone witness it, know about it, or experience something similar?	Other children
Did you tell anyone or try to get help? What response did you receive? If not, why not?	No - when you're in care who believes you. You're just another care kid.
What was different at this placement compared with the others?	It felt more like a bootcamp than a home. Never made ny friends

Question / prompt	Response / notes
Institution name, location, approximate dates / age and who placed you there	Tynepark School for Girls, Haddington 1976-1978
What type of setting was it, and how long were you there?	A big house - 2 years
In a few sentences, what was ordinary daily life like: accommodation, routines, school/work, food, clothing, hygiene and contact with family?	It smelled but the first night this big woolen woman gave me clothes to wear and showed me to a bedroom. My own bedroom. The kitchen was in the basement where we had to eat. You enter down one set of stairs and exit out another. The man who owned it had glasses, he was a decent guy. He never bothered me. The food was okay I think. Had a classroom in the same property across the road. Nobody came to see me.
How did staff and other children generally treat you? Were there rules, punishments, isolation or unsafe arrangements?	I tried to run away and swallowed loads to take my own life The staff treated me ok. I was just existing. You wouldn't be allowed to go into the villages and mingle. No punishments - never really did anything wrong
Did anything happen there that you now consider abuse, neglect or harmful? ☐ Sexual ☒ Physical ☐ Emotional ☐ Neglect ☐ Other	A staff member punched me in the nose - I think she got reported. My nose was bleeding

Question / prompt	Response / notes
	She punched me because I wanted to go to the toilet but she wouldn't let me?
Who was involved or responsible? Include names, roles, descriptions, staff or other children where remembered.	One of the staff members - female Jannette was big, hage? Very tall and big built. Lots of freckles strawberry blonde hair
Give one clear example of what happened. Where and when did it occur, and what happened before, during and afterwards?	One time going to toilet
How often did this happen, over what period, and did it change or become worse?	n/a
What immediate effects did you experience: pain/injury, fear, shame, sleep problems, bedwetting, running away, behaviour or school changes?	n/a
Did anyone witness it, know about it, or experience something similar?	Another staff member who questioned why
Did you tell anyone or try to get help? What response did you receive? If not, why not?	No - I keep myself to myself. After quarriers i kept away from it
What was different at this placement compared with the others?	I got a bit ore freedom, they would take us to the beach if you were good. The other staff were okay.

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 couple in quarries - stuck with me. Will never go away
Were other children affected, and did you witness abuse or harm to anyone else?	The man poking us with a stick 2 boys with me
Why do you believe staff or the institution knew, or should have known, what was happening?	I think they knew. I don't know if the quarriers care home knew
Were complaints discouraged, ignored or punished? Were you moved, threatened or disbelieved?	I wouldnt complain it wasnt worth it
Have you ever reported the abuse to police, an inquiry, a professional or any authority? What happened?	No - I never speak to them. I dont like police they dont listen no one does until its too late

7. Movement between placements and leaving care

Question / prompt	Response / notes
Why did you move between placements, and were the reasons explained?	Cant remember how and why i was moved
Did you run away, refuse to return or ask to be moved? What happened?	Ran a few times from different ones. Asked to be moved from tynepark - told no one else would take me
When and at what age did you leave care, and what were your circumstances afterwards?	Ended up in bostol an into a bail hostel. I cant remember. The only i remember was leaving bostal and being put on a train

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?	Ruined my life. As im older i have kids but until i was 16 Ended up on the streets as well.
How has it affected your mental health, including anxiety, depression, trauma symptoms, panic, flashbacks, nightmares, self-harm or suicidal thoughts?	Yes Anxiety Flashbacks Nightmares - tossing and sweating Sucide attempts and thoughts
How has it affected physical health, sleep, pain, alcohol or substance use?	In my head its upsetting Alcohol - high usage Substance use - i would sniff some stuff
How has it affected relationships, parenting, friendships, intimacy, trust or isolation?	6 kids 2 different dads. Didn't and still don't enjoy sex Constantly thinking about being touched I find myself following my children and constantly checking in to make sure they're okay. I had 1 mate but she moved away.
How has it affected education, work, confidence, opportunities, finances, housing or day-to-day stability?	Job at a bar - not really Lack of education during care Happy to be at home
Are there triggers, places, smells, authority figures, institutions or situations you avoid?	I can't think my brains fog - avoid sex Avoid going out because to many people
What impact has this had on your life overall, and what do you think may have been different if it had not happened?	Ruined my life, I'm getting by day by day alcoholic. Eat drink bed repeat Dont go out too many people I honestly wish i was never here never born My life would have been better i wished my parents would have been better and nuice but you cant get that. You get what you are given

9. Support and treatment

Question / prompt	Response / notes
Have you received counselling, therapy, mental health, addiction, GP, hospital or other professional support?	Yes Mental asylum in edinburgh but i cant remember why Near the castle
Have you been diagnosed with any relevant condition, and have you taken any related medication?	Anxiety - Citalopram amitriptyline 6 a night - sleeping tablets antidepressants stress
Are you receiving support now? If you delayed seeking help, what made it difficult?	No dont want it

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

Question / prompt	Response / notes
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?	Na
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?	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?	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 want the bastards punished. Somebody should be held accountable for them. They should have done a background check. These places are everywhere, you don't know who's next door.
What would acknowledgement mean to you?	Nothing. Justice please your honour. Not just for me but for everyone else as well. They've not been there or experienced it.
Is there anything else you want Redress Scotland to understand about what happened or the harm you have lived with?	Change the rules, change things for the better. For poor kids who've been through enough and get battered. Everywhere I've been I had to fight my way through. It is true, I have to fight for everything, I had to. It's in my heart. No one wants to listen.

13. Closing and welfare check

Question / prompt	Response / notes
Is there anything important we have not covered, or wording you want handled carefully?	I'm drained thinking about it. Im sad for other people too
How are you feeling after discussing this, and do you feel safe to end the call?	Rocking back and forward - but I'm okay.
Is there someone you can contact for support, or would you like support service details?	No, I'm okay, I'm fine. My grandson is coming ill play games with him
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.	[]

Check	Completed
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