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3rd August 2026

Redress Scotland

apply@redress-scheme.scot

By email/post: Email

Our Ref: 100217

Re: Scottish Redress Application - Miss Angella Isabella Cross

DOB: 22nd May 1967

Application Reference: APP639700

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 Miss Angella Isabella Cross, together with the supporting exhibits referred to within the statement.

The purpose of the witness statement is to provide Miss Cross' own account of her childhood care placement, the abuse and neglect she describes experiencing while in care, and the impact this has had on her childhood and adult life. The statement is submitted in support of her application to The Scottish Redress Scheme and should be considered alongside the application form and supporting evidence bundle.

The statement explains that Miss Cross was placed into care in Scotland at 2 years old. It records her background before care, the circumstances of her entry into care, and her account of being placed at Rosedene House from 7 June 1979 to 29th June 1981, as supported by the exhibited records.

In summary, the statement describes Miss Cross' account of Emotional and sexual abuse and neglect. It also describes her separation from siblings, her attempts to tell her mother, and the difficulties she experienced in reporting or speaking about the abuse as a child. The statement further sets out the impact on Miss Cross at the time and throughout her adult life.

The enclosed exhibits include records confirming Miss cross' placement at Rosedene House, Hawthornbrae Childrens Home and medical records relevant to the impact described in the statement. Some records are redacted where appropriate and should be read together with Miss Cross' account.

The statement also refers to Miss Cross having been prescribed Propranolol and Tramadol. These medications are noted in the statement in the context of anxiety, separation anxiety and depression. In general terms, Propranolol may be used to help manage physical symptoms of anxiety, Tramadol can be prescribed to lift low mood and raise serotonin.

Miss Cross attributes her ongoing anxiety and depression to her experiences in care, and therefore the medication evidence may assist Redress Scotland in considering the possible link between her childhood trauma and the ongoing mental health impact described. This is not intended as a medical opinion, but as a summary of the medication evidence and its relevance to the claimed impact.

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

Brief overview of enclosed document

Section / document part	Brief contents
Cover Letter	A cover letter from us addressing key issues in support of our clients Scottish Redress application.
Witness statement	Miss Cross' personal account in support of her Scottish Redress application.
Background and entry into care	Personal background, life before care, entry into care, and separation from siblings.
Care placement account	Account of Rosedene House and Hawthornebrae Childrens Home, including dates, daily life, staff conduct, punishments and care arrangements.
Abuse, neglect and reporting	Description of alleged punishment, emotional harm, separation from her family and Sexual Exploitation.
Impact evidence	Effect on childhood and adult life, including mental health, relationships, education/employment and medication/treatment.
Supporting exhibits	Placement confirmation and supporting medical records referred to within the statement.
Payment Authority From	A letter setting out reasons for us as the Clients legal representative to receive payment on their behalf together with their authority.

Yours faithfully,

Leah Pearson – Claims Handler

Investigations Team
MMA Legal

WITNESS STATEMENT OF ANGELLA CROSS

Application to The Scottish Redress Scheme

Applicant: Miss Angella Cross

Date of Birth: 22 May 1967

Application Reference: APP639700

Support Person Present: No

Background

1. My name is Angella Isabella Cross. My name as a child was also Angella Isabella Cross.
2. My address is 44 Woodburn Bank, Dalkeith, EH22 2EY.
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.
5. Where I cannot remember exact dates or details, I have made this clear. I confirm that I have provided as much detail as I am able to recall.
6. 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.
7. Where necessary, I have exhibited extracts of supporting documents to this statement in support of my application.
8. I am happy for this statement to be submitted to the Scottish Redress Inquiry.
9. I do not need any support to give this statement today, and I do not need anybody with me to complete it.
10. I understand the purpose of this statement and that it supports my Scottish Redress application.
11. I do not have, and have never had, any criminal convictions.
12. I was placed in care while I was under the age of 16.
13. The care setting was in Scotland.
14. At the time, I was living in a care setting as part of the care arrangements. I was approximately 11 years old when I went into care.

15. I am unsure who placed me into care or why I was placed into care.

16. My placements were in children's homes.

Life Before Care

17. Growing up, I lived in a house with my Granny and Uncle. We never really had much. Granny did not work because she was unwell.

18. I had two brothers, but I did not live with them. Having two brothers was great. I was the eldest child. My siblings and I had a normal life. I had a good life at my Granny's. I had a double bed, a good lifestyle and home-cooked meals.

19. I know that we had to make do with what we had. I was around 10 years old when things started to change.

Entry Into Care

20. I was taken from my family when I was around 11.

21. I was never told that I was going into care and I still do not know why I was taken into care after all this time.

22. I remember going to my mum's house to see my brothers when the police came to take us. I was sleeping next to my youngest brother, Angus, when the police made us get dressed and took us away.

23. My siblings and I were all taken to a type of respite house. It was a very large place. My brothers were only there for one night before they were taken to another home, which was a foster home.

24. After this, I was separated from them.

25. I was placed in Canaenlodge Children's Home in Morningside, which was an assessment centre.

26. It was not because I was bad, but because they had nowhere else to place me. My dad was my adoptive dad. He did not want me; he only wanted my brothers.

27. I stayed there for one year. I do not know whether this was a decision made by social workers or whether they were directed by the court or someone else.

28. At the time, I was so scared. I felt absolutely frightened.

29. I remember I only had the clothes on my back. We had all been taken by strangers, without being told what was happening, and then left in a strange house. I remember a doctor came and examined me.

30. This left me with severe separation anxiety. I felt that everybody would leave me.

Detailed Account of Each Placement

Canaenlodge Children's Home

31. I was placed in Canaenlodge Childrens Home in 1978 and remained for about one year, as far as I can remember.

- 32. I had absolutely no privacy here. The rooms were shared and open. Any child or staff member could come in whenever.
- 33. There were lots of fights and things like that while I was here.
- 34. The staff did not give me any clothes. I only had the clothes I arrived in.
- 35. I had to share a bath with the other children. The staff always watched us because children would fight in the bathrooms.
- 36. I had toiletries, soap and a toothbrush. I was kept clean.
- 37. The treatment was fine, but I was always on guard.
- 38. The other kids were big and violent. I hid in my room most of the time.
- 39. There were no punishments, but I was not free.
- 40. I could never leave other than to go to school. I had no contact with my family. I did not even have contact with my Granny.
- 41. It was a place for naughty, angry children. I remember that the staff would restrain children if they were kicking off or fighting.
- 42. The food and drink were fine. I never felt malnourished.
- 43. If I had to sum it all up, I would say that I got what I was given.

Rosedene House

- 44. I was placed at Rosedene House. **"EXHIBIT 1"** shows that I was admitted on 7 June 1979 and remained there until 29 June 1981.
- 45. The Highland Council Social Work Department placed me in this care setting. From what I can remember, there were perhaps 10 people in one large room.
- 46. There were different rooms for different children, as well as a room where the staff stayed.
- 47. The home had multiple levels and was large.
- 48. My day-to-day routine there was not bad. I would get up, get dressed and go to school. I would normally have breakfast with the staff. I had to get the bus to school with the other kids.
- 49. The staff gave me clothes when I arrived. The clothes did not fit, but I had to make do. I had no choice.
- 50. The food was whatever the staff gave me. I had no choice: I either ate it or went without. We would bathe together. The staff watched all of us.
- 51. I was a bed-wetter as a child, especially while I was in care. This stopped once I left. The staff helped me clean up when I wet the bed.
- 52. I could go out and have fun, but I had to behave while I was in the house. I don't remember any punishment.
- 53. This was my happy home because it was in Inverness, near my family.
- 54. I don't remember any physical abuse.

- 55. I was allowed visits and communication with my family. I was not allowed to see my mum, but I could see my Granny. I was never made to watch or take part in any form of abuse.
- 56. The food and drink were fine. I never felt malnourished. I had everything I needed in terms of clothes and shoes. They did not fit, but at least I had something. I cannot remember the details regarding toiletries, but I am fairly sure that I was clean. We bathed and washed regularly.
- 57. Rosedene was a large place, or at least it looked large to me at the time. From what I remember, it was clean and well cared for.
- 58. I was never locked away in confined areas. I cannot remember whether I attended appointments, so I cannot comment on that.
- 59. The staff were supportive of my school and education.

Hawthornbrae Children's Home

- 60. I was placed at Hawthornbrae Children's Home. **"EXHIBIT 2"** shows that I was admitted on 15 March 1982 and remained there until January 1984. **"EXHIBIT 3"** contains further details confirming the time I spent there. It was a Church of Scotland home.
- 61. The Highland Council Social Work Department placed me in this care setting. From what I can remember, there were many of us in one large room. I did not have a room of my own.
- 62. There were different rooms for different children, as well as a room where the staff stayed. The home had multiple levels and was large.
- 63. My day-to-day routine there was not bad. I would get up, get dressed and go to school. We would eat with the staff. I had to get the bus to school with the other kids.
- 64. I had to pray at the table. I wasn't religious. I had to go to church. I was moved to a different place and a different school. I didn't have a choice. This was decided for me.
- 65. I had clothes and received a grant once a month. I could only buy the basics; it did not matter whether I liked them. The food was the same: I had to eat whatever I was given.
- 66. There was only one meal a day. When I turned 15, I was given £15 to make my own tea. This was not a choice; it was forced on me.
- 67. No one showed me how to budget or cook, so I taught myself. We had toiletries. Everything was shared and open. The staff watched us bathe. I could not see my family. Phone calls were rare, and I had no contact with any of my family.
- 68. The only person who took me out was my adopted dad's dad, once a month.
- 69. I felt as though I was in a detention centre. Some of the staff liked me, and some did not.

70. They blamed me for things. They said I was a feisty wee thing. I was argumentative. I learned not to be a grass—I would take the punishment for other people.
71. As punishment, I would be grounded, lose my pocket money and miss my weekly treat. The other children were all right.
72. They always thought I was the ringleader. I had an attitude and would answer back. I had many problems because I missed my family.
73. At the time, I did not think of it as abuse, but looking back, it was something that should never have happened.
74. They made me wash a blind boy every morning. He could not see me, but I could see him. I was just a wee girl. He was called Robert. I had to wash him.
75. He was older than me and physically mature. He had hair down there, and I was only young.
76. I asked not to do it because I did not want to, but I had no choice. This happened in the bathrooms every weekday, from Monday to Friday.
77. He went away at weekends. It happened first thing in the morning, before school. No member of staff helped or watched me. I was left to do it alone.
78. Everybody knew I had to do it. The kids laughed at me. They thought it was funny. I did not like the fact that he was hairy; it made me very uncomfortable. I was exposed to sexuality at a young age.
79. I used to wet the bed because of everything that happened and my trauma. I had no comfort. I changed and washed my sheets myself. I was embarrassed, and no member of staff comforted me.
80. The staff said I was too big to be wetting the bed and shamed me for it.
81. My behaviour changed there because I was punished quite a lot.
82. A staff member called Joan did not like me. She argued with me about everything, and I argued back and was punished. She was older, and she did not want to hear what I had to say. I couldn't be happy or show happiness. She singled me out.
83. Every other child went away at weekends. I was the only one left. The staff would punish me if I did not do what they told me. They loved punishing me.
84. My adopted dad phoned the home and told the staff to tell me not to walk near where he lived or speak to my brothers. However, it was the only road I could walk along to get to school.
85. The staff enjoyed telling me that I could not see my brothers. They could have refused to pass on that message, but they did not. The staff would stop my phone calls if I was considered bad.
86. They said that my behaviour was upsetting, but it was because I missed my brothers.
87. My mum would send cards but I never received anything. I think they hid them. I could go and see my friends; that was the only good thing.

88. This was the worst placement. I was punished more often there.

Exit from Care

89. When I left care, it was fast and harsh. I left care at 16.

90. They wanted me out and accused me of stealing Robert's Christmas money. They used this to move me. They wanted me gone. They got the police to search me and take me out.

91. They were screaming at me, and the next thing I knew, the social workers took me away.

92. After leaving care, I did not know where my mum was. My Granny died a few years later.

93. I was placed in Stopover Hostel by the Edinburgh Social Work Department in 1984. I was there for six months.

94. I did not like it, but if I did not return, I would lose my placement. I had to do everything myself.

95. I was shown my room and that was it. I had to get and do everything on my own. Different people were always coming and going.

96. I never felt safe. I did not know anyone.

People Involved, Reporting and Institutional Knowledge

97. Out of all my placements, Hawthornbrae was the worst because my mental health deteriorated there.

98. I wanted to end my life. Joan, a worker, was awful to me. She picked on me and singled me out. I never witnessed any harm or abuse towards other children, but I watched some children being removed by the police.

99. I remember Tommy being taken away. He was crying. I do not know why they took him or where they took him. They took me from Inverness to Edinburgh, closer to my dad, even though they knew that he did not want me. I was isolated.

100. Social Workers knew that they did not want me. The staff enjoyed watching me cry while they told me that I could not speak to my brothers.

101. I was punished if I did not want to wash Robert or do something else.

102. I wanted the staff to like me so that I would have a better day, but it did not work like that. I was moved a few times when I argued with staff. I was never violent, but they said that they did not want me there.

103. I would apologise but they told me it was my last chance. I had nowhere else to go; I just wanted a home. I thought it was normal.

104. I told social workers that I did not like it, but they said that it was not going to change anything.

Movement Between Placements and Leaving Care

- 105. I was often moved back and forth for being argumentative. I ran away from Rosedene with a girl called Sharon Bruce.
- 106. We wanted to see our families. The police took us to the station where my mum was locked up and then took us back to the home.
- 107. The police would tell me I would end up like my mum. They showed me my mum behind bars to try to frighten me.
- 108. Her mum was the same. Sharon is dead now.

Impact on My Life: Past, Present and Future

- 109. This has had, and continues to have, an impact on my life. My schooling suffered because I was moved so often. My lack of proper education affected my ability to get a job.
- 110. Everyone let me down, so I could not trust anyone. I am a people-pleaser; I want everyone to like me. I suffer from anxiety and depression. For this, I take tramadol and propranolol.
- 111. I have nightmares about my childhood experiences, and I suffer from high blood pressure.
- 112. I never turned to drugs or alcohol. I watched my mum suffer from alcoholism. I chose the wrong relationships, including abusive relationships. I was often drawn to people with emotional problems because I felt more comfortable around them.
- 113. My experiences affected my parenting; my children watched me cry a lot. In friendships, truthfully, saying goodbye feels normal to me. I am not used to people being around. I am used to being abandoned.
- 114. I don't feel I can have anything good in my life. I have never had a job; my job was looking after my children. I had to learn to manage everything myself.
- 115. Social workers trigger me. I panic when they are around me. I have to make sure someone else can talk to them. I have panic attacks, and I cannot trust social workers. I feel that they lie a lot.
- 116. I lost my confidence and my ability to trust. I question anything anyone says; I always believe that there is an issue. I worry when people are kind to me. I don't like people knowing I was in care. I don't like talking about my parents.
- 117. I think I would have had a happy life at my Granny's. I would have been around my family. I do not know where my family lives. I cannot find any of my aunties or cousins. My brothers went into the army.
- 118. We still speak, but we are not as close.

Support and Treatment

- 119. I haven't had any therapy or counselling. My GP thinks I need it. My GP gave me a leaflet. I suffer from back pain.
- 120. The physiotherapist and doctors believe that my back pain is connected to my anxiety and could be trauma-related.
- 121. I take prescribed selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, antidepressants and medication for anxiety disorders. As shown in "**EXHIBIT 4**"

Supporting Evidence and Records

- 122. I understand that records and documents may be considered alongside this statement. I have exhibited documents to this statement where necessary. I have also provided a bundle of evidence in addition to this statement.
- 123. It contains all the relevant documents that my legal representatives have been able to obtain on my behalf from relevant institutions, local authorities and medical practices.
- 124. 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.
- 125. I have done all in my power, with the assistance of my legal representative, to obtain and provide as much evidence as possible. I have asked my legal representative to redact any information that is not relevant to my Scottish Redress application.

Difficulties with Memory and Gaps in Evidence

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

Previous Claims, Applications or Payments

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

Why I Am Applying to the Scottish Redress Scheme

132. I want the social work department to learn from what happened to me. Whether a family is good or bad, a child sees the good in them.
133. Having things such as letters from my family kept from me felt like a death. I was isolated—very isolated.
134. I was a person, not a robot. I had feelings, but I felt as though they thought I did not. I was just a number, not a person.
135. I want them to experience the pain I went through. I want them to acknowledge that I was a person. I have lost memories.
136. I have a blank space where my family history should be, and I cannot tell my children about it. I do not know whether I can accept an apology now.
137. They cannot justify what they did to me. They took my life; I never had a life.
138. I was a human being. I am annoyed that they never checked how I was. I went somewhere where they clearly did not want me.
139. My adopted dad did not want me. I have never felt wanted.

Final Statement

140. 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.
141. I have never received any payment, apology, response or settlement in respect of my Scottish Redress claim or the abuse.
142. I have never signed any waiver, settlement agreement, discharge or acceptance form in respect of my Scottish Redress claim or the abuse.
143. Going through this again has been triggering. I want it to disappear when this is over. I am done with it all now. 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: Miss Angela Cross

Signed:

Dated: 01 August 2026

EXHIBIT 1

**THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO CHILDREN'S HOME

Please complete in duplicate separate forms for each member of the family to be admitted. These should then be returned along with medical forms (in duplicate) for each child and a full background report to the CHILDREN'S HOMES SUPERVISOR, THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, 121 GEORGE STREET, EDINBURGH, EH2 4YN. Any school or Psychiatric reports available should also be sent so that as much information as possible may be given to the Houseparents-in-Charge with whom the application will be discussed. Further information about the Homes is given in the memorandum enclosed with these forms.

PARTICULARS OF THE CHILD

FULL NAME OF CHILD: ANGELA CROSS KNOWN AS ANGIE

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: 22.5.67 - LONDON

PRESENT ADDRESS: 96 CANAAN LODGE CANAAN LANE
EDINBURGH (ADMITTED ON 25/10/81)

NATIONALITY: BRITISH

HAS CHILD PREVIOUSLY BEEN IN CARE? YES

DETAILS OF PREVIOUS HOMES OR RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS OR FOSTER HOMES: 19.6.78-13.2.80 ROXBOROUGH CHILDREN'S HOME, INVERNESS;
19.80-29.6.81 ROXBOROUGH CHILDREN'S HOME

SOCIAL WORK ACT AND SECTION: SERIAL WORK SCOTLAND ACT 1982 SECTION 49(1)(b)

REASON(S) FOR ADMISSION: LACK OF PARENTAL CARE & BREAKDOWN
OF PLACEMENT AT HOME

EXHIBIT 2

**THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

CHILD IN CARE

Name (s) : Angela Cross Date (s) of Birth: 22.5.67

Date of Admission: 15.3.82 Home: Eawthorncrae

Local Authority (give address): Lethian Region
Craigmillar Area Office
182 Greendykes Road
Edinburgh

If no Local Authority involved - Name and address of Parent/Guardian:

Father: William Cross Mother: Pearl Cross
5/4 Craigmillar Castle Loan c/o Lochalsh Road
Inverness

Reason for coming into Care: Lack of parental care and breakdown of placement at home

EXHIBIT 3

Copy sent to MC Duncan on 6/9/83

DEMISSIONS:

Name(s) of Children Angella Cross

Demitted to care of Mr & Mrs Cross

Address: 71 Linwood Drive
Dumchapel G-15

(please give precise details stating which parent, guardian or Local Authority child has been discharged to).

Date of Demission: 5th September 1983

Reason for Demission Supervision Terminated
decided to live with father.

[REDACTED]

NUMBER NOW IN HOME: _____ **PLACES VACANT:** _____

Boys _____ Girls _____

Date 6th Sept 1983 Signature Anne E. Buxel

EXHIBIT 4**Outpatient Clinic Letter**

Patient:	Angella Cross 44 Woodburn Bank Dalkeith EH22 2EY	CHI	2205671464
		Date of Birth / Age	22/05/1967 (51 years)
		UHPI	620045326K
Specialty Consultant:	AMH ML - Psych Therapy Michael Jones	Attendance Date	18/09/2018

Dear Dr Scott:

SUITABILITY FOR THERAPY ASSESSEMENT:

[REDACTED] mood and anxiety, [REDACTED] worthless and abandoned by others with a sense of never having been loved. She experienced childhood abuse, physical and emotional abuse from her mother. [REDACTED]

BACKGROUND

She grew up in Inverness. Her parents separated and she was cared for by her adopted stepfather whom she describes she has a difficult relationship with him. She has two step brothers from this relationship. She reports that her mother misused alcohol and substances and died ten years ago. Angella spent a significant proportion of her childhood in care leaving at the age of sixteen and a half to move into temporary accommodation system. She describes a number of difficult relationships that were abusive and her partner's misuse of substances. She has sustained significant assaults herself from her ex partners. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

RISK ASSESSMENT

She has thoughts of not being here but she has never acted upon these thoughts since her teenage years when she took tablets in response to her step father preventing her from seeing her step brothers. She currently received Mirtazapine 45mg and Propranolol - query dose.

SUITABILITY FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL THERAPY