

WITNESS STATEMENT OF PAUL RYAN CARROLL

Application to The Scottish Redress Scheme

Applicant: Mr Paul Ryan Carroll

Date of Birth: 12 April 1984

Application Reference: APP473971

Support Person Present: No

Background

1. My name is Paul Ryan Carroll. My name in care was always Paul Ryan Carroll.
2. My address is 13 Maimhor Road, Seamill, West Kilbride, KA23 9EE.
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 18. The care setting was based in Glasgow.
11. I was approximately 17 years old when I went into care.
12. I know who placed me into care and why I was placed into care.
13. The placements I was in was a Prison.

Life before care

14. I grew up in Glasgow with my mother, father and older brother.
15. We had a happy home. We were cared for quite well in society.
16. I was charged with assault but back then it was Young Offenders.
17. Glasgow Sheriff Court made this decision.
18. I was separated from my Brother during this time.

Entry Into Care

19. At the time of entry, I felt fearful. It was a daunting setting Barlinnie.
20. I do not think I should have been put in there as a young man.

Detailed Account of Each Placement

HMP Barlinnie

21. I was placed here by the Glasgow Sheriff Court for assault.
22. I was here for 9 days until I turned 18. Overall I was imprisoned for 1 year.
23. I never slept well trying to adjust to prison life.
24. We were given small kits with clothing but these were dirty and had skid marks in them.

25. We would spend 23 hours of our day locked in our cells and only had 1 hour of out of cell exercise.
26. Even the food had pubic hairs in it.
27. The other inmates and staff did not treat me very well.
28. The other inmates would just bully me as I was a new arrival.
29. The prison officers would make fun of me and make comments about my penis being small.
30. I was locked up with other drug users.
31. Another inmate urinated in my shoe so I was unable to wear them and there was no facilities for me to wash them.
32. The abuse i suffered was negligence, emotional abuse, physical abuse and sexual abuse.
33. I suffered in silence.
34. The clothes I received were dirty, the underwear had skid marks and I was fearful of cleaning myself in the showers.
35. The food was served on dirty plates and always had pubes in it.
36. The emotional abuse I endured from bullying.
37. The other inmates and the guards would call me names.
38. I was locked in my cell for 23 hours with no one else. I was isolated.
39. I suffered physical abuse on a number of occasions.
40. I was attacked on the bus on the way to the prison. There was lots of bullying going on because people realised I was new so they turned on me.
41. When I said something back one of them jumped on me and punched me.
42. Another occasion was during recreational time. I can't fully remember what happened but another man attacked me. He got into trouble with the officers.

43. An officer attacked me while I was on the buzzer to use the phone. He jumped on me and elbowed me. He grabbed me by the throat and pushed me against the cell wall.
44. I endured sexual abuse from both the officers and the older inmates.
45. Another officer grabbed his penis in front of me and asked me "what would you do to that if you got it".
46. The older inmates around 30-40 would make fun of me and make sexual comments to me in the shower room.
47. The one occasion of abuse I will never forget is the officer who attacked me when I was using the phone.
48. I kept pressing the buzzer to use the phone and he kept looking at me through the spy hole and laughing at me.
49. After I continued pressing the buzzer, he came in and elbowed me, grabbed me by the throat and told me "I told you to stop pressing the buzzer". This happened in my cell in the afternoon.
50. The abuse happened very often, it was rife and gradually got worse.
51. I never slept after these things happened. I was traumatised and isolated.
52. It was horrible and had such an effect on my mental health. I became anxious and tried to avoid everyone.
53. I was constantly on high alert and fearful.
54. A lot of the other boys would get the same treatment from the guards, they are supposed to protect you and they are abusing you.
55. I couldn't tell anyone because I didn't want my family knowing what I was going through.
56. I felt like I couldn't speak to any of the other officers about it. I was just hoping it would go away.

57. There was a lot of drug taking that I was exposed to as a young man.

People involved, reporting an institutional Knowledge

58. The prison officers and the other inmates were the main people involved.

59. The officers had a duty of care to look after me but I didn't get that.

60. I saw other inmates getting the same sort of treatment too.

61. There were no changes happening. All the prison officers knew about it and I saw them participate in all different ways.

62. If I was to make any sort of complaint I know the treatment would have gotten worse.

63. I have never reported the abuse to any police or authority but I did share what happened with my addiction recovery sponsor.

Movement Between Placements and Leaving Care

64. I moved prisons a few times, I always thought it was because of the crime I committed.

65. I never had the option to run away or leave.

66. I left the prison system at 36 years old. I was battling with addictions and substance use after being exposed to it from prison at 17 years old.

Impact On Life Past/Present/Future

67. My experience has affected every part of my life. I was fearful and felt very low. It was traumatic.

68. I never got any education. I was failed by the system.

69. I suffered in silence for years being unable to speak up.
70. Any relationships I have had such as my family, partners and my daughter. It has drastically affected them all.
71. I have suffered from anxiety and depression my whole life. I take anti depressants every day.
72. I have to take tablets to sleep otherwise the events will run over and over in my head of what happened.
73. I have tried to take my life on a couple of occasions.
74. I turned to alcoholism to deal with the pain that I was enduring mentally. I am still an alcoholic and abuse drugs, the trauma causes me deep pain.
75. I have to go to trauma counseling because of what I experienced.
76. Sometimes I struggle to have a free life without being demented by the past. I can't give myself to my family because I can never open up.
77. I still stay with my mother and father just because it is a safe place for me. I do not feel safe in society.
78. I barely leave my house, I can't watch anything on tele about prisons, loud noises can trigger me and take me back to that place in my head.
79. It had a dramatic impact on my life, made me live with shame and fear all of my life. I dont know if i will ever change, i live in these memories.
80. It has restricted me from reaching my full potential. I always felt less.
81. I have a bit more concern for my own welfare.

Support and treatment

82. I have counselling for mental health, I've had mental health nurses, occupational therapists and Trauma counselling.
83. I have Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and take medications to help.
84. I take Metazapine every night, Propranolol and Sertraline.
85. I have the support of the fellowship and the support of a trauma counsellor.
86. The abuse made it hard for me to seek help. I didn't want to feel weak.

Supporting Evidence & Records

87. I understand that records and documents may be considered alongside this statement.
I have exhibited, as necessary, documents to this statement.
88. 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.
89. 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.
90. 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

91. The events described happened many years ago. Some dates, names and details are difficult for me to remember.
92. My memory has also been affected by the trauma of what happened to me.

93. Where I have used approximate dates or descriptions, I have done so honestly and to the best of my recollection.

94. I have not intentionally exaggerated or included anything that I do not believe to be true.

Previous claims, applications or payments

95. 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.

96. I have not received any payment, apology, settlement or decision, or signed any waiver/discharge.

Why Am I Applying to the Scottish Redress Scheme

97. I am able to talk about this now because I am in recovery.

98. I want people to know what was happening to me and other people there.

99. These people had a duty of care. I want to make sure this does not happen to anyone else.

100. An acknowledgment wont make much difference to me, but maybe i will be able to do something with my daughter.

101. I want Redress Scotland to understand that what's going on behind these doors is not acceptable and should not be tolerated in this day and age.

Final Statement

102. 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.
103. I have never received any payment, apology, response or settlement in respect of my Scottish Redress claim or the abuse.
104. I have never signed any waiver, settlement agreement, discharge or acceptance form in respect of my Scottish Redress claim or the abuse.
105. 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 Paul Ryan Carroll

Signed:

Dated: