

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

QLW

Support person present: No

1. My full name is [REDACTED] QLW [REDACTED] My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1962.  
My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### Life before going into care

2. I think I was born in Springburn, Glasgow, but I was brought up in [REDACTED] in Tradeston, Glasgow. It was right in the city centre, but it's all knocked down now and the tenements are all gone. My mum was [REDACTED] and my dad was [REDACTED]
3. I remember we had a living room and a little hallway and a kitchen and the bedroom. The bathroom was outside in the close. Our beds were a pull down wall bed and bunk beds, in the kitchen. My mum and dad slept in the living room on a pull down bed.
4. I have six siblings, starting from the oldest, [REDACTED] who's nine years older than me, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who are both dead now, [REDACTED] myself, QKI and [REDACTED] I also have a little half-brother as well, [REDACTED] who is the son of [REDACTED] and my mum. [REDACTED] was born when I was in the home. [REDACTED] was a man my mum was with from about a year before my dad died.
5. My dad had a drink problem. He was a charming and handsome man, very social and smiley with a big personality. He loved having his pals round, always with a carry out and they would get the records on. It always ended in violence though, he always took it out on my mum by battering her. He would come at her with pokers.

He would scream at us, that we had to choose who we wanted to live with, and all that business. The police would get called and he would be taken away.

6. It was a very chaotic lifestyle but I have to say, as much as it was like that, with the drinking and violence, I always absolutely felt loved. That was the one thing I missed, when I went to the home, because in the home it was more ordered, calm and structured. There was no love or proper affection or warmth. At my family home there was a lot of chaos and madness but there was still loads of love, affection and cuddles.
7. My early family home memories are of drinking, fighting, violence and my dad being in prison. I remember constantly getting sent round to my granny's, my mum's mother. My granny was always saying my dad was a waste of space. If we were with my granny she would always give us a wee bowl of soup and tuppence, something like that, she was great. My dad's mum was okay with us but I don't think she got on very well with my mum, so there wasn't much support for my mum there.
8. When I was about five or six, I remember running about freely and not going to school. School wasn't a thing really and, of course, social services got involved.
9. I don't remember the names of any of the social workers from back then. I do remember a Mr Crichton and Mhairi Stewart but they were from later in my life. Mhairi was just training and was really nice. That was when I was about fifteen or sixteen.
10. My dad died from psoriasis of the liver when I was thirteen and in Quarrier's. He would have been 43 or something. My mum died later when she was about 54. She sort of gave up and just started drinking as well. She had a triple bypass, then, a couple of weeks later she had a stroke and died.
11. Mum tried to gas herself the year we all went into care. I think it was 1968, my dad was in prison and me and my sister found her. I remember the police came and she

was taken away to the hospital. The social work also came and they bundled us all into cars and took us off.

12. Mum was at the end of her tether, I loved my dad but he was no use. He always gambled money away and she couldn't rely on him for money for food. There was also the violence. She would break up with him for a little while but he was really charming and he would work his way back in and we'd start all over again. I felt sorry for her, she really did try.

### **Lochgarry Childrens Home, Glasgow**

13. I remember going to Lochgarry, I'm sure it was there, for a few weeks of temporary care before going to Quarriers. It may have been that we were assessed there, then went to Quarriers.
14. I remember going there in a car and being told by the social worker that it was only very temporary, just until mum got better and stronger. That was fine and I felt I could cope with that.
15. Nobody ever provided any update to us in relation to my mum's health. The next time I saw her after that incident was when she took us to Quarriers, so maybe two or three weeks later.
16. When we arrived, it was dark and quiet. It was in the night and people were sleeping so we were just put to bed. I remember a little swing park and a pram with a dolly. I played with the dolly and didn't want to leave it. We were given navy blue trench coats that all looked the same. I have very little recollection from Lochgarry as we were only there for two or three weeks before going to Quarriers, I certainly have no memory of anything bad happening while we were there.

### **Quarriers Village, Bridge of Weir**

*General*

17. Six of us went to Quarriers, my older brother, [REDACTED] was able to stay at home but the rest of us went there. I remember [REDACTED] was crying non-stop. It went on through the night and the house mother was shouting at him, telling him off. He wouldn't eat his food and that must have continued for at least a week, he just couldn't settle, so he was taken out and went to stay with our granny.
18. There was a school and a church, everything was there. The school was nice, primary and secondary. There would have been about 500 children in total at Quarrier's and there was fourteen in our cottage.
19. I stayed at Quarriers the whole time, from 1968, when I was six or seven, until 1980, when I was eighteen. [REDACTED] went on to approved schools and assessment centres and [REDACTED] went on to a List D place. QKI and [REDACTED] were at Quarrier's until they were about sixteen.
20. Our house parents did change, we had [REDACTED] QOE from the start until I was about ten or eleven, and she was the worst. I do say that with hindsight. After [REDACTED] QOE we had [REDACTED] QKH/QKG who were a bit better than [REDACTED] QOE and then we had June and William Wilson. The Wilson's were warmer and more caring, they were perfect and couldn't have been better.
21. I always got the impression the [REDACTED] QKH/QKG didn't want to do the job and that it was just something to do until they retired. Sometimes the house parents would go on holiday or go away for a long weekend and relief house parents would come in. I liked all of them.

**Routine at Quarrier's Village, Bridge of Weir***First day*

22. I definitely remember driving in, everything was green and it was all trees and bushes. I didn't like that at all, it wasn't nice and was all so strange, so alien to me. I liked the city, I liked buildings and concrete. I know people say it's lovely taking the children into the countryside and giving them loads of fresh air but that wasn't right for me at that time. It was all paved, there was main gates with flower beds that were bright and colourful and a sign that said 'William Quarrier's Orphan Homes of Scotland'.
23. There was just a house mother, [REDACTED] **QOE**, we all called her Aunt **QOE**. We were all called by our names. It was cottage 22 and it was right beside the church. I remember they rang the church bells every quarter of an hour. To start with our family weren't all together. I think, at first, [REDACTED] was in cottage 7 and **QKI** was in cottage 3. Then spaces came up in our cottage and, eventually, we all ended up in cottage 22.
24. Just down the drive there was Love Avenue, Peace Avenue and Hope Avenue, the cottages were like little mansion type houses set in their own little bit of green.
25. Mum was there on that first day, she was very quiet, she was getting upset, and I remember her speaking to the house mother for a bit. We were all crying, mum was crying.
26. **QOE** would have been in her early thirties. She was on her own, but she had a house auntie, **QKF** and a cleaner, Margaret McCurdie. I think, looking back, that **QOE** was out her depth because all the other cottages seemed to have couples looking after the children.
27. I felt, even on that first day that **QOE** was very intolerant and rough. She had a sharpness that made you know you were on your own and we were traumatised enough by having to leave mum.

*Mornings and bedtime*

28. We got up about 7 - 7.30 am, made our beds, folded stuff away, got ready and went down for breakfast. We changed the beds at weekends. After breakfast we brushed our teeth and got ready for school.
29. Bedtime was say 7.30 pm, 8 pm and 10 pm, it was staggered according to age and **QOE** might shout out 'bedtime' but she usually sat in her little sitting room, settled in for the night and just left you to get on with it.

### *Food*

30. The cottage auntie or the house mother made the food and it was great. We had cereal, cornflakes, boiled eggs and urns of milk. Whoever's job it was would bring in the milk, fill up the little jugs and put them in the fridge. Then you washed out the urn and placed it at the end of the path, to be picked up after a new one had been dropped off. We were fed regularly and that was good.

### *Washing / bathing*

31. We would bath every night. Maybe, when we were younger they would put a couple of us in a bath together, but most of the time, we bathed on our own. The cottage auntie would bath us when we were younger but as we got older we just washed and bathed ourselves.

### *Clothing / uniform*

32. The home provided all our clothes, there was a shop, a drapery and a big launderette as well. The drapery tended to be donated clothes. We wore a uniform and we had Sunday clothes. If you needed clothes you got a note and went to the drapery. Come Easter you would maybe get a nice hat or a wee pair of shoes. I liked going to the drapery and there was a hairdresser's around the back where we got our hair cut.

*Possessions*

33. We had a locker for possessions but it didn't actually lock so things regularly got nicked. We had our own toys that we kept in our lockers but as the lockers didn't lock we would hide things. I don't know how many dolls ended up with a moustache or a beard drawn on them by somebody, which was so annoying.

*School / chores / religion*

34. There was a primary and secondary at Quarrier's, both were within walking distance from the cottages. There was also three other buildings for little ones and babies, one was called 'Campbell Snowdon', I can't remember the other two. My brother [REDACTED] was about two when he went in, so might have been in one of them.
35. We wore a school uniform and I remember the classes were quite small, about fifteen to a class. In secondary we did English, maths, history, art, geography, science, biology, woodwork for the boys and cookery for the girls. That's all I remember really.
36. We did 'O' levels and I'm grateful for that, we were perhaps the first group to sit exams and get some sort of grades. I didn't do great, I was rubbish at maths, but I did like it and I feel we did well for being in a children's home. I got an A for music, a B for English, C for art and history and I failed maths three times. I was rubbish at maths.
37. Then I went to a proper comprehensive school, Park Mains in Erskine, where I sat my Highers. I got my English, history and music. I didn't get fantastic grades but it was a proper school with hundreds of people.
38. At Quarrier's we were big fish in a little pond but you were nothing at Park Mains. We were accepted and there was no name calling or anything so everything seemed okay there.

39. I did make a few friends and I'd stay with them on the odd weekend, which was nice. However, I mostly remember being frightened and out my depth at Park Mains. It was a bit intimidating and scary so I just hid in the music department every break and lunch time.
40. Me and my friend [REDACTED] joined the music department. We went on a trip to Hanover one year and there was a return trip the following year so some of them came to stay at Quarrier's, which was nice.
41. Music was my love and I put that down to Mr Albert Peterson. He was the music teacher and took the choir. I knew when I was at music I was safe with Mr Peterson, and I enjoyed that. He was decent and you knew when you were at music there wasn't going to be any funny business.
42. I cannot say enough about how important Mr Peterson was to me, he was just the best. He had been there for years and years and many older boys and girls would come back to sing in the choir or for special events and they all had such warmth and affection for him. He was so good, and I was just one in a long line of people, that he helped to make life a bit easier for.
43. Even if there wasn't a group to be involved in I would just try and be in the music room all the time, practising, helping, tidying up or singing in the choir and doing performances. I loved the choir. We did loads of performances and sometimes it would be for a special day.
44. Quarrier's paid for me and my friend, [REDACTED] to go to the Royal Scottish Music Academy every Saturday for about two or three years from the age of thirteen or fourteen
45. I remember some centenary day event and we did a big performance for loads of people in the church. We played solos and they introduced us as some of the Quarrier's students who were attending the Royal Scottish Music Academy. They were very proud of us.



46. We all had jobs to do, set tables, clear tables, wash everything down, brush the floors, wash and dry dishes, peel potatoes, polish shoe, we were always kept busy.
47. We came back from school for lunch and after school we had our jobs to do. Whenever we had any time to ourselves I would always practice the piano.
48. I'm sure Quarrier's was Church of Scotland. We attended church services every Sunday morning and night. There was also a wee Sunday school, which was really boring but stressful. **QOE** would try and make sure everyone was behaving so you would get nipped or poked or something. We sat down the front on the left and she kept all the trouble makers near her. Reverend Minto was one of the ministers, but he came later, and there another one from Aberdeenshire but I have forgotten his name.

### *Leisure*

49. There were many activities, although we always stayed within the grounds. We had a trampoline, we played down by the river and there was a little pond with pedal boats. There was a big red ash pitch and loads of grass for playing on. I remember there were tennis courts, a swing park and a sand pit. I remember a little hill, that seemed massive when you were a kid, where we would slide and sledge when it snowed.
50. We had a television but we wouldn't watch it during the day. We could read books from school, things like Heidi and we got annuals, like the Broons, at Christmas. There would probably be some books lying about in the cottage but I don't remember a library.
51. It was all a very middle class life really. We had the brownies, guides, a choir, a violin teacher and I had my piano lessons with Mr Peterson. There were umpteen sports activities and on Saturday mornings we went to the Sommerville Weir Hall where we watched old films or Laurel and Hardy.

52. Mr Peterson once arranged for us to compete in a wee music competition and we also went to the pantomime every year. There was a taxi run or something that the taxi's put on as well.
53. We also got our pocket money on Saturday mornings and we would go to the tuck shop and get sweets. It was maybe 10 pence or something but enough to get sweets. When we were a bit older we would go into Bridge of Weir, on the little Quarrier's shuttle bus. It was owned by Quarrier's. That made you feel a wee bit more grown up.
54. I remember some other kids' parents would visit and leave their children lots of money to put in their boxes. That was always a bit annoying because it made me wish my mum and dad would come and leave money for us.

*Holidays / trips*

55. We had a two week holiday every year, by the sea, near Turnberry. Mr Hodge, who was a millionaire, owned several big houses over there and we went to stay in them. There were fields with horses, stables and a swimming pool. He gave the whole place over to Quarrier's for the summer holidays. Our cottage had a two week slot in the summer. We would get all our stuff packed and travel to the house in a double decker bus. I remember kids being travel sick on that bus.
56. Mr Hodge would fill up the freezer with ice lollies and ice cream and every Saturday he would leave all the kids 50p. We would go down to the beach, have bonfires and a midnight barbecue. I have nice memories of hot dogs, buns, wee biscuits, caramel wafers and a wee drink of juice.
57. Mr Peterson would also take some of us on a wee camping trip just to give us a nice break and to focus on lots of nice music. We would sometimes put on a concert for Mr Hodges to say thank you, that was nice too.

58. I also remember going to Girvan for summer holidays as well.

*Birthdays and Christmas*

59. Christmas was great. We got a stocking and we ran down to the playroom, which would be locked. [QOE] would open it up and we all got pillow cases full of presents. The presents were donations that had been handed in to Quarrier's. Some of them were brand new and some were good quality second hand stuff but I remember scooters, wee prams, dollies, books, colouring books, pens and selection boxes.

60. We all went to church on Christmas Day and I remember Santa coming down on a plane type thing on a wire. That was exciting and fun and we got another present at the church. We also had a nice Christmas dinner at the cottage. I remember Heinz tomato soup, orange juice, a turkey dinner and puddings. We played with our toys and watched television, I liked that, it was great.

61. I don't remember Christmas or birthdays at my own house but I do remember them at Quarrier's. At birthdays we got presents and a cake. Again, I remember nothing like that at home.

*Visits / Inspections / Review of detention*

62. I never went home but, at the start, my mum and dad did come and visit on Saturday's. That was great because they could spend as long as they liked and we would go for a walk around the park. If it was cold or wet we would just sit in the home in the playroom. The visits just stopped when I was about ten or eleven. I think it was because mum and dad's lives were a bit chaotic and to be honest I think it was hard for them, I think they felt ashamed. After that I would only see them at a children's panel and that was only about once a year.

63. I think my mum and dad felt embarrassed, particularly when with the first house parent [QOE]. [QOE] was a little bit sneery and judgemental. She would give my dad that look sometimes, like they were less than her. I felt that, so my mum and dad

must have felt it too. I didn't get any cards or letters and I had no other contact from my mum.

64. When I was about twelve my mum visited with [REDACTED] and told us she was pregnant. I remember I was annoyed, I was thinking it wasn't right. I wasn't happy and I just wanted my dad. Every time mum came to visit I was on her knee, climbing all over her and I loved her, but I wouldn't go near her that day. We didn't know then that her and dad had been finished a long time, she just appeared and said she was pregnant.
65. Not long after that visit, [QOE] and Margaret McCurdie were having a wee coffee break after dinner. My sister [REDACTED] was washing and I was drying the dishes and Mrs McCurdie said something about my mum visiting and that she was expecting another baby and that it was a bloody disgrace.
66. I was so embarrassed that she was talking about my mother like that but [REDACTED] just went mental. She grabbed [QOE] by the hair and pulled her down. [REDACTED] would have been about twelve and she just pulled [QOE] down to the ground and wouldn't let go. Eventually [QKF] and Mrs McCurdie split it up. [REDACTED] got battered stupid for that by [QOE]. [REDACTED] was away from Quarrier's within a few weeks after that.
67. I'm sure we attended a children's panel every year. I think it was a review of our care but you never really had a voice. You knew you couldn't say [QOE] was horrible and battered us. We would speak to each other about it but you didn't speak up to your parents. My mother and my father would have done something about it if we had and I didn't want to cause bother. [QOE] was always there anyway.
68. I remember there were open days when busloads of women would come round and walk through the house. They were from church groups or women's institutes. Quarrier's was a charity so they relied on a lot of donations and had to have these open days. We all had to be on our best behaviour and sometimes I'd play the piano like a wee performing monkey.

69. I had a foster friend when I was in Quarrier's. It was actually meant to be my sister [REDACTED] who had the foster friend because she was nearer in age, but [QOE] changed that. [REDACTED] was really angry about that and battered me. [QOE] shouldn't have done that because [REDACTED] would have loved to have a friend and it would have done her loads of good.
70. Mr and Mrs Gray were my foster friends, they would visit me at Quarrier's with their daughter, Anita, after school on a Friday. I remember I was always really excited. I went to their house fortnightly and I would stay at the weekends. They had a mobile shop and I remember helping out on that. They stayed in a nice bungalow in Burnside, Glasgow. I went on trips with them. I remember going to the Isle of Man and they took me to Scarborough one year. I became good friends with Anita.

#### *Healthcare*

71. There was a dentist and a doctor in Quarrier's village. You just went up and waited in a visitors room if you needed to see them. There was also a wee cottage hospital type thing with a few hospital beds. If you had scabies or something you would go and stay there and have baths.
72. I remember my brother [QKI] got electrocuted once when he stuck his finger in an old lamp. He collapsed and [QOE] was screaming, but [QKI] came around and he was up in the cottage hospital place for a few days. His heart actually stopped and his lips were blue, that was all so chaotic.
73. I also remember ripping my knee open on a rusty bit of metal when we were playing down by the river once. I got some stitches for that.

#### *Running away*

74. I did run away but it was always very half-hearted. [REDACTED] was better at it and she would get right into Glasgow, I wouldn't even get to Bridge of Weir. I would run away because someone had battered me or threatened me.

*Bedwetting*

75. Our house mother, [REDACTED] <sup>QOE</sup>, couldn't cope with bed wetter's, she went mad. She would shout at you and made you feel stupid. She would stop you drinking and fluids after 6 o'clock at night and get you up in the night to go to the toilet. She would stand over you and make sure you did a pee.
76. I was a bed wetter and I remember getting taken to the doctors when I was about seven or eight. I got a bell and a mat for under the sheet. There was a wire thing they attached to the bell and if you wet the bed the bell went off.
77. If the bell went off during the night [REDACTED] <sup>QOE</sup> would go mad. Sometimes I slept through it and I'd get dragged off the bed and made to rip the sheets off my bed and carry them to the bath. My pyjamas would all be wet. You would fill the bath and wash them all. You put them through the wringer mangle thing and [REDACTED] <sup>QOE</sup> would just berate you the whole time. She would call you a nuisance and say it was ridiculous that you were wetting the bed. She would also tell you, you were stinking. I wet the bed for a long time.

*Discipline*

78. All the teachers would give the belt but I only got it a couple of times. I would listen to the teachers and I was too scared to be naughty. I liked school so I wanted to listen. There were no belts or sticks at the cottage, [REDACTED] <sup>QOE</sup> just went overboard with her fists and nails and by poking at us.
79. I once got six of the belt from the deputy headmaster, Jock McLaren, because my friend [REDACTED] and I had been winding up another girl called [REDACTED]. We had been calling her names or teasing her and we'd run into the school, into the toilets and locked the door. We were screaming and laughing and she was banging on the door. The deputy caught us and we all got belted.

80. I have no knowledge of any punishment book. Mr Mortimer, the director at Quarrier's, might have dealt with that. If you were really bad you would maybe have to go and see him and he would read you the riot act. The only occasion I had to go to his office was when [REDACTED] and me went to have a music award presented to us. I remember we were told to go to his office and thinking what the heck had we done, so it was nice to go up there for a good reason.

### **Abuse at Quarriers Village, Bridge of Weir**

81. If we were speaking in bed at night, QOE would sneak up the stairs and just pounce. We'd be giggling in the room, and hear her creaking across the floor. We'd stop because we knew we would get it if she came in. Sure enough she would come in and pounce on us and drag someone out their bed. She would dig her nails into the back of your neck and tell you off for talking in bed.
82. Then she would drag you down stairs, digging her nails in all the time, and throw you into the shed through the back. She would leave you there in the cold. I remember it was very dark and scary. She would lock the door and go away, leaving you locked up.
83. It felt like you were locked up for a long time and she wouldn't come back to get you until everyone was in bed. Sometimes she forgot you were there. That happened to me and it made me angry. I used to think that if my mum or dad knew about that, they would have gone mental and battered her. QOE was vindictive and was always stopping you from doing things if she wasn't happy with your behaviour. You'd be sent to bed or you wouldn't get sweets that were being passed around.
84. I was maybe just a bit too trusting at Quarrier's, I believed it was all going to be temporary and we were all going to get back home. I did like the order and the structure of Quarrier's.

85. My sister [REDACTED] struggled with authority. She was more rebellious and just couldn't settle. I remember [REDACTED] once went bananas and was shouting and swearing at [QOE]. [QOE] then started punching into [REDACTED] and she got this older boy to hold [REDACTED] down. While the boy was holding [REDACTED] down, [QOE] was punching at her and [REDACTED] told me it wasn't the punches that were hurting it was because her face was up against a pillow and she couldn't breathe.
86. [QOE] would also force feed the children. I remember one girl hated stew and [QOE] got the girls nose and held it closed, then when the girl opened her mouth [QOE] would force a spoon full into her mouth. Snots and everything were coming from everywhere, it was dramatic. We were all trying to eat our dinner and there's all this violence in front of your eyes, just because one girl wouldn't eat her stew.
87. [QKF] the house auntie would often get dragged in to help [QOE] force feed children. I felt sorry for [QKF] because I got the sense she didn't want to be part of it.
88. When my brother [REDACTED] was in a cot, it was my job to change the bedding. I remember once I changed the bedding but forgot the rubber mat. [QOE] went mad, called me a stupid idiot and smacked me across the face. She punched the side of my head and it cracked off the cot rails. I started crying and she started hitting me again. I kept crying, but that seemed to be what was annoying her.
89. I would say the abuse happened regularly. I think [QOE] was vindictive. She had this nastiness inside her when she was digging in her nails, smacking you really hard and then roping other people in to help her. She loved belittling you in front of other people.
90. I remember [QAI] he was the art teacher. I think that he will be dead now. He used to properly hit you across the head if you went over the lines that you were painting. I didn't experience that personally but I saw him do that to many people in the classroom. He had a bad leg [REDACTED] and he was terrifying, so your nerves were shattered whenever he was on the prowl.



91. We had our own friendship groups at Quarrier's. This was mostly fine, unless you fell out with somebody. I remember having a fight with a boy [REDACTED]. He was my boyfriend and [REDACTED] my pal, had been making a play for him. [REDACTED] chucked me one morning and I was so humiliated that I 'claimed' him. That means I wanted a fight with him and I'm no fighter but I met him after school and had a go but he punched me and I remember I was crying.
92. I was mortified and then I 'claimed' [REDACTED] and I went for her. I had a right good old fight with her and battered her, and I felt I had redeemed myself. The next thing I remember was going up for our music lesson with Mr Peterson. I just cannot sing that man's praises enough. He was so disappointed in us, for fighting, so [REDACTED] and I were both in tears, because we'd let him down. He told us we sang in the choir, we were musicians and we had to set ourselves apart from that type of behaviour. He expected so much more from us and he made us shake hands and got us back on track.
93. There was a horrible boy at Quarrier's, a real predator, called [REDACTED] QGO. He would try and touch the girls, including me. He was about fifteen and he once followed me outside into the cornfields and he and another lad tried to do things to me. I was only about ten, [REDACTED] QGO got his penis out, held me down and got on top of me. He was lying on top of me, rubbing against me and trying to do something.
94. I remember my pants were digging into me and I was holding onto them for grim life thinking that if I let go of them he was going to do something. I wasn't sure what he could do sexually but I knew something bad was going to happen. I remember his weight on top of me and him kissing my face and rubbing against me. He was saying he loved me and I was crying. I couldn't get my breath to scream properly. Then the other boy eventually pushed him off and I ran for it.
95. Sometimes if we were allowed to stay up to watch a late film on a Friday night [REDACTED] QGO would get his penis out and masturbate until he came. He would ask me to give it a wee touch and I would try not to give him any eye contact but he would just do it

anyway. He was scary, he was the sort of boy you just didn't want to be near. He was such a big threat. He did things like that to me and to other girls.

96. I remember I once went into the wash room and [QGO] had a girl pinned against the wall. He was trying to get her towel off her because she had just come out the shower.
97. In 2003 or 2004 my brother took [QGO] to court because he made my brother have oral sex with him in the bathroom at our cottage. I think that was actually Quarrier's and not [QGO] as an individual. [QOE] was also part of that and she was found guilty of something. [QKI] and [ ] all received compensation for that.
98. I'm sure [QGO] left when he was about sixteen. I think he joined the navy or something.
99. [QKH/QKG] became the house parents after [QOE] left. They weren't as violent as [QOE] but I think my brothers, [ ] and [QKI] tested them sometimes. [QKG] would grab the boys a bit and be in their faces and shove them, but I never saw him punch them.
100. I remember keeping a wee diary and I had written down that I hated [QKG] and that he was a shite and this and that. Well he found it. I came home from school one day and he took me out into the hall and asked me 'what do you call this?' I went bright red and he was saying it was libel and that he could take it to a solicitor. I just hated him even more but I felt powerless, what could I do against him.
101. I remember [QKG] once saying at a panel that I hadn't been practicing as much as usual at music. I always got the feeling he was looking for ways to put you down, undermine you or give a negative impression of you.
102. The [QKH/QKG] were authoritarian, they always had to be in charge and they ruled with fear. With [QOE], when she had a good day, you knew you could relax but you always knew not to cross her.

103. My brothers and sisters and I all attended my dad's funeral and that was quite sad. I remember getting pulled away from it when I just wanted to be there. [REDACTED] was there from whatever home she was then in and she was crying. Some of my dad's old pals were there and I just wanted to be part of it for longer but the minibus was there and we were whisked back to Quarrier's.
104. There was no visits from anyone after my dad's death. No social work, no counselling or grieving opportunities, nothing whatsoever.
105. There was another boy in the cottage called [REDACTED] QNL [REDACTED]. He was older and he would creep into the rooms. He was about sixteen at the time and he used to come into your room at night and put his hands under the blanket. He would try and touch you. I don't know if he was masturbating at the same time but you would wake up with your pyjamas pulled down and he would be there. You would get a fright.
106. It got to the stage where I got into bed with [REDACTED] when he came creeping in. It happened about three times and on the third occasion I got in to bed with [REDACTED] and she shouted out to the house mother. [REDACTED] QNL [REDACTED] ran off back to his bed and it didn't happen again after that.
107. There were other boys who were up to no good. I don't know if anyone else noticed but I think there would be girls who would definitely be aware that, from a young age, you knew who to keep away from. There were boys you didn't want to get yourself stuck with in a room, or down the back shed, when nobody else was around. This was because nine times out of ten they would have a go at you or do something.
108. I even remember one time, walking into [REDACTED] QOE [REDACTED] bedroom to ask her something and [REDACTED] QNL [REDACTED] was sitting on her bed. She had her arm around him, which was strange, because that was her bedroom. He seemed upset but I just remember thinking how strange it was, them being together like that in her bedroom.

109. Sometimes **QOE** would invite you into her little sitting room and she would get you to massage her legs or her neck and shoulders. I did that a few times, so did my brothers, **QOI** and **QKI**. It was just such a weird thing.

### **Reporting of abuse at Quarrier's Village**

110. I didn't speak up at any annual review with the children's panel. I didn't say anything to the social work either. I didn't trust that anything would be done about it and it was always a different social worker that visited anyway so that wasn't any good. We never had an opportunity to build up any relationship with anybody.
111. I didn't report **QGO** to anyone, I was frightened he would batter me and I thought I would get into trouble for talking about things like that.

### **Leaving Quarrier's Village**

112. I was at Quarrier's until I was eighteen and I remember thinking about what job I was going to do. I had a friend who'd left Quarrier's the year before and was nursing. She was saying it was interesting, you could stay in the nurses home, get paid and have money to live on. I thought I would do that and being a nurse seemed like a nice job.
113. Nursing wasn't my first choice but I needed somewhere to live and it came with accommodation. Nobody had ever said they'd been in touch with my mum and that I could go back there, there was nothing like that. I think I'd given up on seeing my mum, she had no idea I was going into nursing.
114. I wrote to Argyle and Clyde Health Board for a nursing job. I got accepted and went for an interview. I did my training while staying at Ross House nurses home in Paisley. I remember the day I left the cottage at Quarrier's. Auntie Carol, who was the Wilson's house auntie, dropped me off at Paisley, gave me a fiver and said good

luck and to keep in touch. No one else gave me anything. I had no other money at all and I hadn't been taught anything about life skills.

115. I don't remember anybody saying we will walk you through this or preparing you for life outside of Quarrier's. I am sure my social worker, Ian Brodie, said nursing sounded good and he might have helped me with writing to them and for the interview but I did most of it myself.

### **Life after being in care**

116. While I was doing my nursing at the Royal Alexandria Infirmary in Glasgow, I was told my mum was in a bad way as [REDACTED] had taken her money and left her. I went to Glasgow and I helped out by getting her some shopping and cigarettes, stuff like that. I didn't give her money as she would just have drunk it all. She was really grateful and we kept in touch a bit more after that, but not a lot. I sensed she was having hard times but I couldn't provide for her.
117. When I left Quarrier's, the first man I met was the man I married. He was 31 and had been married before. I was eighteen. I just latched on to a nightmare, I was really insecure and vulnerable and he was the first person to take an interest in me.
118. We went out for about sixteen years and had two girls. We got married when I was about 28. I thought it was proper love but it wasn't. He was a bit violent, domineering and it wasn't good. I didn't want the same things happening to us as happened to my family so I stuck with it and kept going. I thought that if we got married he would be less insecure, happier and settled and not so angry but that never happened.
119. To start with we lived in Possilpark, which was a rough area in Glasgow. Then we moved to Southend-on-Sea where my brother and sister were and [REDACTED] got work there.

120. Finding accommodation was hard and a bit expensive then [REDACTED] did a couple of humiliating things in front of my sister. She thought he was an idiot and told me to get rid of him but we moved to Newcastle.
121. I started music classes at Newcastle College and got a really cheap second hand piano, so I was loving playing that again. I hadn't played in years. I got signed up for weekly piano lessons and the teacher was telling me to get myself on the graduate course.
122. I remember crying my eyes out as [REDACTED] said I would neglect the house and that it would affect our lives too much. He told me that I wasn't going to college. I promised everything would be done and I eventually went to college and studied music for three years. Then I did a further year of teacher training at Durham University and got my post-graduate certificate in education to become a music and English teacher in schools. I'm still doing that now.
123. [REDACTED] was a heavy drinker and came from a big family. There's a history of fighting and aggression and a lot of the time I was frightened. I was also frightened to leave him because I didn't know how I would manage. I didn't know how I would cope on my own.
124. Once I became a teacher I could get my own place and keep my head above water. I didn't need to rely on him so that's what I did. He never paid any maintenance so I just got on with it, me and the two kids.
125. I concentrated on my kids and my work for many years after that, then I met my current husband. I haven't looked back since.
126. In [REDACTED] I wrote a book, [REDACTED] which was about my experiences in Quarrier's. Just telling people wasn't enough, I wanted to make sense of it all properly, I wanted a balance.

127. If I sit and discuss Quarrier's with my brothers and sisters for too long, it becomes a nightmare. They call them this and that. While I know what they're saying is right, and it did happen, there were other bits to it as well. There were bits that were good. I loved school, I loved the teachers and I loved getting good grades. I liked the food, the clean beds and just some of the basics.
128. Above all I loved music and Mr Peterson and how it made me feel, he gave me that. I didn't need anybody, I could just escape in this wee bubbly thing and after twenty minutes I would feel better. All that **QOE** had said or done had gone, you had lost yourself for a wee bit and I loved that.
129. I just wanted to make sense of things with my book and to pay homage to Mr Peterson. At that time, my brothers **QKI** and **QKI** and my sister **QKI** were taking Quarrier's to court. That's still going on and they got compensation.

### **Impact**

130. I was really insecure after I left Quarrier's. I was really needy and very vulnerable and that was why I latched onto the first person that showed any interest in me.
131. I was brought up in Glasgow with dysfunctional parents, so I had the attachment issues I've talked about. I probably would have been just as needy and found someone like my dad had I not gone to Quarrier's. I would still have been in those sort of circles where those types were. I'm sure I'd still have gone for somebody like that, the dysfunction and chaos. Going into the home just made me more needy.
132. The alcoholism has been passed down to all of us. I started drinking when I was about 26 when life was getting too much. It eventually got to a stage with me where I was thinking, I'm just going to repeat the exact same thing with my kids, as my parents did with me. That's when I got myself to Alcoholics Anonymous and I haven't had a drink since. That was eighteen years ago.

133. Sometimes I had drinking dreams and I would dream I'm back drinking again, they were quite common. More of a thing was actually dreams about my ex-husband. I used to dream I was back with him and he was hoovering and had a stew on. I would be thinking what have I done why have I let him back. Then I would wake up and thank the lord it was just a dream. They were the worst.
134. Getting sober and getting divorced were the best two things I did because then I could just get on with my life. I don't know if it was being in a home that made me stay with him and put up with the violence for so long or having seen the violence myself that there was some sort of normality to that.
135. Not having any knowledge about money when I left Quarrier's and started nursing, really had an impact on me. I got myself into bad habits financially from the get go because I had to borrow. It's better nowadays because you can get grants and things but I have always had trouble with money.
136. At Quarrier's there always seemed to be an inbuilt insecurity, we were sheltered away from things, away from the real world.
137. I think I was a wee bit depressed but I never went to the doctors. My oldest daughter once showed me an old video of me and her talking. Her dad had filmed it. She was full of life and all chatting away and she thought I was all monosyllabic with no emotion. She was an adult when she showed me and she thought I was like that because of her. She didn't realise what I had been through.
138. If I answered back to him, I would get punched in the face, drinks poured over me and thrown about all over the place. It seemed normal as I had seen it with my mum and dad but I know that's not normal.
139. What annoyed me was my daughter thinking that I didn't love her but not knowing about all the underlying stuff. When she got older and stayed with her dad she would have seen a little of that, so she now knows. I don't like to talk about it with them because it's their dad and I don't want them to judge him in a bad way. He was



brought up with that and that's the only way he knows. I think he regrets it now, he's lonely and living on his own and I've got over it and moved on. I just wish I had been strong enough to do something about it sooner.

### **Reporting of abuse**

140. I didn't report [REDACTED] QGO to the police. I haven't reported anyone for any of the abuse I suffered at Quarrier's.
141. It was around 2003 that the police contacted our family and asked if we would come forward and give a statement. [REDACTED], QKI and [REDACTED] did that and they have asked me to do likewise but I wasn't sure if I was up for it. I wasn't sure if it was the right thing for me to do, the right path for me. I didn't give a statement to the police, I didn't want to.

### **Records**

142. I did apply for my records and I got a single sleeve thing that just had an admission date. I think they named a Bill Dunbar as the archivist at Quarriers but there should have been folders and folders for the amount of time I was there.
143. I have never tried Glasgow Social Services, I just thought all my records would be at Quarrier's.


### **Lessons to be learned**

144. Of all of the things I have said, the most important would be the house parents having some support. There should be an ethos that you are not failing if things are going wrong. They needed support and help so that needs to be in place.

145. I don't think it's a good idea to have one person in charge of those people, it should be shared across a few people so that you don't get personality clashes. You cannot have a person who is all powerful and controls everything, that is not a good system. That is open to abuse and open to being used to their advantage.
146. I wish I could have told somebody about the abuse. I wish I could have said I am not happy about my house mother and that she batters me. That I was not happy about [QGO] as he is predatory and you have got to watch him like a hawk.
147. There needs to be a system in place that would make it easier for people to speak about abuse in the system. When things aren't right, they need to be spoken about and aired, but they never are. I never had any faith that somebody had my back. Even with Mr Peterson, I wouldn't have put him in the position of me having to tell him [QGO] tormented me and was always masturbating. I would have been so ashamed and embarrassed to say that to him. I don't know what he would have been able to do.
148. I think that because of the culture at Quarrier's, [QOE] was out her depth, but felt she couldn't say so. I think she struggled with the behaviour because the kids that were coming in were a bit traumatised. [QOE] went down the hard route rather than be perceived as weak. If there had maybe been somebody there to provide support, that she could have gone to, perhaps every three or four weeks or so, that would have helped. If there had been a culture where it was okay to fail or to be struggling, with support in place, then I'm sure that would have helped loads.
149. At Quarrier's you measured yourself against other people outside of Quarrier's. You would think you're not as good as others, they look different, have better clothes and speak posher. I don't know where that inbuilt insecurity comes from or if it's always been that way, because you do feel separate, you feel different and sheltered away from things. I can understand why they kept you separate, it's fairly comprehensive and it's all self-contained but you definitely felt you were away from the real world.

**Other information**

150. I have no objection to my witness statement being published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed  QLW

Dated..... 10/10/18..... 