

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

QKI

Support person present: No

1. My name is [REDACTED] QKI My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1963. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I grew up in [REDACTED] Gorbals, in a tenement flat with my family. I lived with my mum and dad, [REDACTED] I am not close to my siblings and do not recall many ages. [REDACTED] (deceased) was oldest then there was my brother [REDACTED] my sister [REDACTED] (deceased), [REDACTED] my half-brother (deceased), [REDACTED] who is about fifty seven, [REDACTED] QLW me then [REDACTED] and my step brother [REDACTED]. My dad was a boiler scaler on Clydeside.
3. At home we had one double bed which all the kids slept on. The older ones were at the top end of the bed and the younger ones at the opposite end. If [REDACTED] wet the bed, the weight of the people at the other end, meant that I got wet. There was a main room with the fire and a kitchen within. My parents had their own room and the toilet was outside.
4. I was always hungry at home and when I was outside I would eat rocks of coal just to have something inside my stomach. Before I went into care I had not started going to school.

Quarriers Children's Home, Bridge of Weir

5. I was sent to Quarriers Children's Home when I was about five years old and stayed there until I was about twelve. On the day we were all taken into care the social work lied to us. They put us in the car and told us we were only going for something like going to the seaside, anything to get us into the car. I don't know if we were placed in care because of the neglect or because my father might have ended up in prison.
6. I can remember we were in a big black car, like the ones they use for funerals. I am not sure if there was a second car as well because of the number of us kids. Along with myself there was [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], QLW and [REDACTED] I am not sure about [REDACTED], as he might have been too old. They told us it was just a day trip. If they told us the truth we wouldn't have got in the car. I remember some of the older ones crying and trying to get out of the car. There must have been locks on the doors because they couldn't open them.

Quarriers Village, Bridge of Weir

7. When we arrived at Quarriers I saw it was a village with about forty cottages. It looked picturesque and very pleasing to the eye. There was a nice big church in the grounds.
8. I was allocated to Cottage number three and the others were placed in Cottage twenty two. There was not enough room in twenty two hence me being in three. In the cottage we had a toilet with a bath and a sink. A room was used as an office by the cottage mother. There was a dining room, kitchen and playroom. On the other side of the playroom was a hallway leading to a staircase to the first floor where there were five or six bedrooms. Although there was a mix of boys and girls in the cottage the girls slept in different room. At the back of the cottage was a shed.
9. In each cottage there was usually what they called a cottage mother and father who were in charge of the running of their respective cottages. They were usually in their

thirties or forties and had experience. If they were absent for any reason then a cottage aunt would help look after things. It was usually the cottage mother or father that would stay over each night. The aunties would finish about ten o'clock at night and stay in other one of the other cottages. In charge of the village at that time was Dr Davidson but we did not see him from one day to the next. He was not involved with our care at all. We had a cleaner, Mrs McKirdie, who helped out around the cottage.

10. In the whole place there were probably around five hundred kids. They were divided into the cottages with about sixteen to twenty kids in each. It was a mix of boys and girls in each cottage depending on the size of the building. The village had a mix of ages from toddlers to about sixteen. There was a cottage that was for babies only. Most of the people in Quarriers were placed there for the long term.
11. School was within the grounds of Quarriers and was about five minutes' walk from my cottage. While we went to school the aunties would prepare dinner. Each cottage had its own food larder.
12. I was in cottage three for about a month and then transferred to cottage 22. That was when all hell broke loose. The cottage mother we had was Effie Climie who was about twenty four maybe twenty five.

Routine at Quarriers Village, Bridge of Weir

Mornings and bedtime

13. In the mornings between seven and seven thirty the cottage mother or the auntie if she was away would waken you and get you washed and dressed to be ready for breakfast. After breakfast we got ready for school.
14. Bedtimes were varied depending on your age. It usually started with the younger ones going to bed early between seven and eight and it gradually got later as you were older.

Mealtimes / Food

15. Breakfast was okay while I was there. We had corn flakes, toast and tea. Everyone in the cottage ate together in the dining room and we all sat at the same place at the table. At night for supper we would have a sandwich and some milk.
16. I had an aversion for fat and lumpy custard. If ever they were part of the meal I would try and avoid it. The cottage mother Effie Climie, would force feed me. She would use a spoon to make sure you swallowed the food. If that did not work or if she was in a mood she would pull your head back by the hair and punch and slap you on the head. She would also use the spoon so hard against your mouth you were bleeding. She sometimes hold your nose to stop you breathing and make you open your mouth for her to force the food down It wasn't unusual to see kids vomiting blood after she had force fed and hit them.
17. If you did not eat the food or failed to swallow it after being force fed, she would make sure you were fed the same food at the next meal time. If we came back from school for lunch and I was being fed the same food and refusing to eat it again, she would tell the other kids that I would not being go back to school. She would then spend more time trying to make me eat the food. Again if I refused then and again at night I would be fed the food in the morning at breakfast.
18. I remember walking to school and there was a Mr Cook in one of the houses on the way there. He had a coal bunker I would take a bit of coal just like when I was at home and eat that. At least it meant I had something in my stomach.
19. Most of the time it was just the cottage mother Effie Climie who force fed you. Auntie **QKF** would sometimes do the same with us. She was a bit reluctant but she would still help the cottage mother.

20. Sometimes my brother would help me out. If there was something I did not like and we could avoid the cottage mother he would eat it for me. The only cost wasn't a beating, it was that he would get the pudding as well.
21. Effie Climie was there for most of our time at Quarriers and she left in 1972. An older couple [QKH/QKG]'s took over from her. By the time they arrived I was already classed as a problem child. [QKH/QKG]'s would try to force feed you as well but nowhere as often.
22. Sometimes [QKG] would chase me up the stairs, if I had done something wrong. I knew if he caught me I would be getting a few digs. One time when I reached my room I just dived out the window onto the grass below.
23. The toys in Quarriers were all gathered together. If Effie liked you, you were given toys that were in a better condition and newer. If she did not like you then you would get the rubbish that was left.

Washing / bathing

24. Bath time would involve three or four kids using the same bath water. If you were first it was great. If you were at the end, the water was cold and filthy. Bath time was two or three times a week.

Clothing / uniform

25. There was a drapery in the village above the sweet shop. We were measured and given new clothes and shoes. Sometimes we were allowed to choose and sometimes we were told just to wear what we were given.

School

26. We were segregated at school into 'A' or 'B' class. The 'A' class pupils were the children who were believed to have the higher potential to succeed. Most mornings

because of having been awake most of the night I was too tired for school. There were many times when I would be too tired and fell asleep in the classroom. I would get the belt from the teachers for sleeping.

27. Mr QKM was one of the teachers at the school. One day while I was in my class and he was teaching next door. He lost the plot one day and beat up the girl. The other teachers were aware of this incident and of the many other pupils who were also covered in bruises. Nothing was ever done or reported. The other cottage parents were also aware of those bruises but no one reported it.
28. After school between three and four we would change into our play clothes and play outside. We would be out until about five thirty when we would have tea. I never played near our own cottage as I was too scared every time I got close.
29. There were organised clubs we could get involved with. There was boxing, football and canoeing which I joined. We would also play against other teams out with Quarriers. There was also a swimming pool in the grounds. For a while I joined the scouts and would be there once a week. Sometimes we would get to go away on trips with the scouts. There was also a hall where they laid out lots of chairs and someone would put a film up on a screen. I would register for as much as I could just to get away from Effie.
30. We did not have to say prayers at the bedside or anything, but we did have to go to church every Sunday, along with the other kids. I didn't mind going to church.

Chores

31. We did some chores while at Quarriers. This could be in the kitchen either peeling potatoes or doing the dishes, one washing and one drying. Sometimes we would be on laundry duty putting the clothes into white sacks for uplifting by the van. All the clothes had name tags, and the bags were marked for each cottage, so we knew where they were to be returned. As a punishment Effie Climie would make you polish the linoleum floor using the big heavy thumper machine.

32. You would be given some pocket money on a Saturday unless Effie Climie could find some way of taking it off you. If I got any money I would be down to the sweetie shop.

Trips / Holidays

33. Sometimes we would get to go to Girvan for a couple of weeks for a break. Other occasions we got to go to Tumbrie and we would stay with Mr Hodges who was a millionaire. He had land next to the airfield and owned horses and stables. We got to stay in houses there. Other times we were taken by bus to the beach and I really enjoyed it. We were maybe given a pound to play on the arcades.

Birthdays and Christmas

34. At Christmas some of the other kids would be given nice toys like car sets. I would be given a small jigsaw. We might be given a selection box as well. There was a stocking put up and there were some decorations and a tree.

Visits / Inspections/ Review of Detention

35. Some of the social workers were based within Quarriers, like Mr Brodie. The others, like Mr Crighton, was the main family social worker based in Glasgow. You were able to speak with Mr Brodie on your own. This was supposed to take place each month. He was only interested in reading the bad reports from the staff about me. He was just part of the establishment. It was not worth telling him anything. He was not interested in anything but himself and keeping the status quo. He did not want to rock the boat.
36. My dad visited us once while I was there. We were told on numerous occasions that our parents were coming to visit and I would stand outside at the bus stop and wait all day, but there was no sign of them. My mum's sister came with her family and visited us once. When my sister [REDACTED] left Quarriers she returned to visit us.

37. Any of the kids who were due for a visit from their family or social workers would not be hit so they would not be showing any bruises. If there were no visits they would feel free to beat you. One time she must have forgotten about a visit and when the father saw the bruises he threatened her if she ever touched his kids again.
38. When I was about seven or eight, [QKH/QKG] told me that my dad had died. I was allowed to go to the funeral.

Running away

39. One of the times we ran away was when I was about eight or nine. We managed to get as far as Central Station in Glasgow. When we arrived we did not know where we were going. Near to Quarriers was a home for people with epilepsy and one of the residents there recognised us after he spoke to us he contacted the staff.
40. We were always running away because of the abuse. When we were brought back by the police we would tell them what was happening but nothing ever changed.

Bed Wetting

41. My brother [REDACTED] had trouble with bed wetting and it would happen on a regular basis. I only had one incident of bed wetting during my whole time at Quarriers. I think the problem [REDACTED] was having with the bed wetting was a result of abuse by [QGO] and he was so scared at night.
42. If anyone did wet the bed during the night they were given a cold bath. You would have to wash the sheets and you were given other sheets for the bed. Sometimes you were given a plastic sheet as well. There was an alarm system under the bed to let them know if someone wet the bed.

Abuse at Quarriers Village, Bridge of Weir

Cottage three

43. At night, without any reason, Effie Climie would waken you, grab you out of the bed and make you stand out in the shed. Even if it was other children talking whose parents were not coming I would be grabbed out of the bed. She would make you stand there on the cold concrete floor facing the corner. As she dragged you down the stairs she would be punching and kicking you. When she had you facing the corner she would keep checking that you were facing into it. If not she would use that as an excuse to beat you again. Just before the other kids were due to get up she would drag you back to the bedroom. From this and the other beatings you were always covered in bruises.
44. After one of those nights I was using my scooter on the footpath. I came off the path into the road and was just missed by a woman driving by. I fell from the scooter and she came over to check I was okay. She saw I was covered in bruises. She was screaming and shouting at her boyfriend in her car, about who could do that to a child. I just pointed to the cottage. She wanted to take me to staff to report it but I ran away because I was too scared to report it.
45. There were other nights when Effie Climie would get me out of bed, usually around midnight when most would be sleeping. I was taken from my bed screaming telling her I had done nothing wrong. Instead of being taken for a beating she would take me to her room and make me kneel on the floor as she was on the bed. She made me rub her legs. She would make me rub right up to her vagina. I would be complaining that it was all jaggy there, pubic hair. She would then slap me about the head. I had to turn my head towards the wall as I was not allowed to look at her. This all started when I was about five. My brother [REDACTED] was also involved a little later and we had to do a leg each. This was a regular thing for her when it was me involved but only twice with my brother.
46. There was a boy in our cottage, [REDACTED] QGO, who was about fifteen or maybe seventeen. He was sexually abusing my brother [REDACTED]. He tried to make [REDACTED]

give him oral sex. One time I saw him with an erection and he was trying to force it into [REDACTED] mouth. I was in shock and QGO shouted at me to get into the room. Some of the other kids saw me in fear and shouted for auntie Effie. The first thing she did when she came up was slap me to the head and sent me downstairs. My brother came down a few minutes later. I have no recollection if he had been doing the same to me from when I was younger. It was obvious to her what happened but she done nothing to QGO. She did not want to report this as she was molesting me as well and this would come out. This happened not long after we moved into Quarriers.

47. Some afternoons when we were in the playroom, we would be asked to line up for tea. As Effie Climie walked past she would slap me on the head.
48. When my sister QLW was at Quarriers, Effie Climie took a liking to her and turned her into a mini-me. She dressed her the same as her. We would be getting abused and she would be treating QLW really well. QLW would walk around all the time with Effie Climie
49. Mr Mortimer was aware of the kids being hit and was always trying to cover up the beatings. [REDACTED]
50. Homelea Cottage was where there office was and where they would meet and gather. Mr Mortimer was in day to day charge of the running of the home and was in charge of the social workers there. [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
51. When my sister [REDACTED] was still with us and she heard me screaming she would come running into the room to try and stop Effie Climie from hitting me. [REDACTED] would only have been about ten at the time. Effie would beat [REDACTED] up for this.

52. On one occasion [REDACTED] was in the kitchen with [REDACTED] QLW and I was sat in the dining room and could hear and see what happened through the archway. Climie made some derogatory remarks about her mother and [REDACTED] had enough after the incessant abuse and went for Climie. She shouted for Miss McKirdie, the cleaner, to help her by separating them.
53. [REDACTED] QJW was only about fifteen or sixteen and it was common knowledge he was sleeping with Climie at that time. She was using [REDACTED] QJW to help beat her up. [REDACTED] would be lying in her bed when Climie and [REDACTED] QJW would appear. Climie would tell [REDACTED] QJW to hold her down while she gave her the beatings. She did this because [REDACTED] was bigger and able to look after herself a bit better.

Cottage twenty

54. When I was about twelve I had been moved and was now staying in cottage twenty at that time. I was moved because I was marked as a problem child. [REDACTED] QFK was in charge and one time when I was about five minutes late for dinner, I saw he was losing his temper. I ran out the room. He chased me into my room and I could see his eyes were bulging with temper. He was punching the hell out of me. I saw the fire exit door was open and got away from him and ran for it. I jumped over the fire exit onto the grass area and landed about thirty feet below.
55. I headed to Homelea cottage and spoke with Mr Ian Brodie. I had lots of cuts and bruises. He later spoke with [REDACTED] QFK and was told that I got the cuts and bruises from fighting with other boys. I am not the only person [REDACTED] QFK hit, there were many other kids who received the same treatment. Mr Brodie was just a wimp and did nothing, although I am certain he knew what really happened.
56. The violence from [REDACTED] QFK was horrendous because he was psycho. If I had not escaped from him he would have killed me. I still don't know how I never had any broken bones. Sometimes when we were playing cricket I would have to practise throwing the ball at him. He was wearing all the padded equipment. He would then swap it over but without me given any protective gear. He would then throw the

cricket ball full toss at me. I was so scared that this real cricket ball would be hitting me I tried to run away from him throwing it.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Leaving [REDACTED]

70. When I was eighteen the staff at [REDACTED] told me I was ready to leave. They looked in a paper and saw a bedsit in Broomhill and I was moved out and into the flat. It was about fifteen pounds per week for the rent. I couldn't afford to live there. I was working as a porter in an auction house but it still wasn't enough to pay for everything.

Life after being in care

71. When I lost my bedsitting place my mum did not want to help but I had to move in with her for a short time. I overheard her and her boyfriend [REDACTED] discussing about how they were going to steal my money out of my pocket. I hid the money under my pillow when I slept. I shouted at them when they were trying to empty my pockets. She made me feel worthless and blamed me for the bad times in her life.

Work experience

72. I worked for a fruiterers and butchers but it only lasted for a couple of days. One of the apprentices at the butchers hadn't put some milk properly in the fridge and wasn't balanced right. When the boss opened it, everything fell out. I took the blame and got the sack. I worked for about a week after that at the fruiterers, but it wasn't for me.
73. I hung around Possilpark but stayed a bit with my sister and her boyfriend. I tried a few jobs in the hotel trade in places like Aviemore, Gleneagles, and head chef at [REDACTED] and then a few places in London. I later got a job as head chef there but I only did this reluctantly and left after about four months because he was not paying me the bonus he had promised. [REDACTED] was working with as an assistant head waiter.
74. Along with my brother [REDACTED] I got a VW Combie. We went to France and had jobs in picking grapes. I sold ice cream on the beach in St Tropez. [REDACTED] eventually returned to Scotland but I wasn't interested. The only conversations with family were about what happened at Quarriers. The family hierarchy was quite strong and I did not want to be part of that.
75. I then went to Italy and onto Greece where I was busking with a second hand guitar. I was working as a chef on the Greek Islands and playing guitar on the boats between the islands. I found out about Israel and I thought it was only about three hours away but it was a three day ferry away. I found out I would have been thrown

right back out because I had no money. The girlfriend of the guy on the boat told me this and that I would have another three day trip back again. She asked if I had any money and when I told her I had none, she showed her credit card and told passport control I was with her. We were waved through.

76. I went there and worked as a head chef on a Kibbutz feeding about four hundred people. I met the Israeli girlfriend in the Kibbutz. I told her some of what happened to me but not a lot. I did not want to make her sad. I met people in kill zones in that country and they treated me better than most I have dealt with in my life.
77. I started to believe in myself and travelled to India then Nepal for four months and then Thailand for about five months. I stayed in Thailand travelling north to south for about five months learning about their culture. I made my way back to Europe from Yugoslavia, Austria and then Germany. When I was in an Irish bar in Munich I heard about the money boys were making on building sites. That was where I worked for a while through agencies. Sometimes I was away for so long I never contacted any family and they thought I had died. I eventually returned home to the UK in 2004.

Court case

78. I was in Germany and got in contact with my sister and she said for me to come back. My brother [REDACTED] had been referred to a psychiatrist about two years before and he asked him why there had been no police involvement. [REDACTED] did not know that he could and he later reported it to the police. When I came back from Germany I was told about the court case that was on-going. Initially he asked me to do the same but I was happy I had put the whole thing behind me and escaped from it all. I later gave a statement to the police at my flat in Islington. In that statement I named the abusers but nothing much happened. I was told they could not trace Ian Brodie and there was never any mention of [REDACTED] QKN and [REDACTED] QKO. They said they were going to pursue the case but I never heard any more about it.
79. My sister [REDACTED] was a witness and a girl named [REDACTED] was a victim of the abuse in the case against Effie Climie. [REDACTED] QJW was listed as a witness but

conveniently not used. During the trial at Greenock Sheriff Court both my brother [REDACTED] and sister [REDACTED] were in the witness box for about a day and a half each. Even my sister [REDACTED] was in for nearly a day and she wasn't even abused by Effie Climie. We asked my sister [REDACTED] QLW to appear as a witness but she said she could remember nothing about it. [REDACTED] I was in for only twenty minutes or half an hour. I was not asked about any of the sexual abuse. There was a break in the proceedings and I assumed it was to continue after the break. Outside the courtroom the PF was patronising me and telling me I did well in giving my evidence, but that it was all over. They were not interested in the sexual abuse. I asked if I could continue with my evidence because I still had not been asked about the sexual abuse but she was so condescending and told me it was over. She, Effie Climie, was convicted of the physical abuse and the sexual abuse was marked as not proven. She would have been about sixty at the time of the trial. It was a complete white wash. I did go back for the sentencing hearing and she was given one hundred and seventy two hours community service. The judge in her summing up was more sympathetic of her age at the time of the offence as an excuse for her abusing us.

80. After the trial I saw Effie Climie with her daughter at Central Station and when she saw me she could not even look me in the eye. I would not have done anything because she was not worth it.
81. My sister [REDACTED] QLW has selective amnesia. She was there when me, my brother and my sister were beaten black and blue. She was standing watching them. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] but did not give evidence during the subsequent court case.

Impact

82. When I left [REDACTED] I could read and write and understood basic arithmetic. But because of the lack of education it was never sinking in.

83. As part of the court case for the abuse I was referred to a psychiatrist and was diagnosed as suffering from PTSD. I was told the chances of recovery were slim because of the length of time.
84. There are times when I listen to some songs which bring me right back to Quarriers and the abuse. There are a multitude of things including TV programmes which have a similar effect.
85. I have low self-esteem because of the treatment at Quarriers and [REDACTED] It is just conditioned in me. I am single and while the rest of the family have their families I don't want any kids. I wouldn't want any of my children to go into care if anything happened to me. I have difficulty in trusting anyone. My brothers and sisters have children but I don't want to get involved with them. I have had long term relationships but don't want them saddened by being involved in the family or hearing what happened to me.
86. When I was in Germany I got caught with a small joint and was sentenced to four months in jail for it. I think my use of cannabis is linked to the abuse I suffered in Quarriers. I was self medicating.
87. On the trains in Germany they have a lot of trust and there were no barriers at the stations. Sometimes I would take the train and not pay. Sometimes they put people on the train to check and one time I got caught. I had no money to pay the fine and was sent to jail for that as well.
88. My sister [REDACTED] also stays in Islington where I live, but I don't see her. I don't want to be around my siblings because of the memories from Quarriers and it keeps coming up when I am with them.
89. I started smoking when I was eight at Quarriers. This was like a crutch to get away from Effie Climie. I have been smoking ever since and because of that I now suffer from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).

Records

90. It was either the police or the first set of lawyers that got in touch with Quarriers to try and see the records they had for me. I know they kept a daily log for all the kids which would include progress reports. Some kids who had better experiences than me were able to see their records, but even the police couldn't get records for me. It showed Quarriers were only interested in keeping the good records and not for kids in my position. I think this was part of a cover up and the police at the time agreed and thought it was strange.

Lessons to be Learned

91. I would hope the Inquiry can make changes where the children who have been abused are taken seriously. Don't blame the system for not having any money, if you feel you don't get paid enough for looking after children then don't get involved. It should be seen as a vocation not just a job.
92. There should be better vetting of the staff. The people looking after the children should not be denigrating them by making them feel worthless. It is not the child's fault they end up in care. When you are in the care of the social work and the homes are run by them there is no one you can turn to when trying to report any abuse and to be believed. There has to be someone independent to go to and to act on the allegations.
93. Court cases involving this type of abuse need to have juries made up of people who have the intelligence, capacity and empathy with the victims. They should be selected for their experience in this field and a vested interest in children. This is the same as social workers, they should be chosen because they want to help children, not in it just for a salary.

- 94. Sheriffs and Judges should be more clear with witnesses when there is a break in proceedings and when a case is being closed. The fiscals should take time to hear all the evidence in the case, not just the physical but the sexual evidence as well. When sentencing it should be an automatic jail sentence for people involved in sexual or physical abuse of children.

- 95. Children's panels need to listen to the children and the people representing them. They need to read all the reports and not be selective in what they pay attention to.

Other information

- 96. As a result of the abuse civil proceedings were started by Ross Harper solicitors but they went out of business. Drummond and Miller took over the case. This was about two years ago. They too did nothing more, but my brother [REDACTED] went to Digby Brown and they have assisted us since. They prepared it in a few weeks and not sat on it like the previous lawyers. Quarriers have never taken responsibility for what the staff did to children. They sold all the land and the church.

- 97. 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.. [REDACTED] QKI

Dated... 16/4/2018