

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

**David WHELAN**

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is David Whelan. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1957. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### Life before Quarriers

2. I was born and initially lived with my mother and father in Glasgow. I was the youngest [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was the oldest, and then there was [REDACTED] [REDACTED] then myself. [REDACTED] was one year older than me.
3. Because of the neglect by my parents I was taken into care when I was one year old. [REDACTED] formally committed into the care of the local authority in 1959 under some sort of RSSPCC Section 66 formal order. My father was in prison then. Initially I was in and out of a number of child infant homes and I didn't know where I had been until I was sent a letter from a Mary McIntosh, who was a former employee in Quarriers, dated 30 March 2011. She contacted me , from what I can recall, via the Scottish Sunday Mail having read my book 'No More Silence'. The newspaper then published a story about this reunion on the 11 September 2011. In the letter she stated she worked in a children's home called Eversley in Aytoun Road, Pollokshields. She stated that she met me there when I was two.
4. I have provided the Inquiry with a copy of this letter. I have photographs which Mary McIntosh gave me when I was a child in this home. I have also provided the Inquiry

with a note that was within my medical records. This confirms I was in Eversley children's home and shows two entries dated May 1961 and July 1963.

5. After that I went to live with two doctors and I stayed with them at the weekends from the home. I think this was a sort of an adaptation period to see if I liked them and they liked me. There was a suggestion that they were going to adopt me but my mother refused to sign adoption papers at that time or wouldn't allow it. I don't really remember much about them because I was so young. They had a dog, a nice house and I remember I was fed and quite happy.

6. I remember I then went to Dunclutha Children's Home in Dunoon. I have a slightly better memory of this place. There were sheep in front of the building and there was a big stone on the beach called "Jim Crow". We used to go down and play on the beach. It was a happy environment at Dunclutha from what I recall. School was up a hill. After Dunclutha I went to North Uist.

7. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] sent to live [REDACTED] in North Uist. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] I [REDACTED] went to North Uist when I was eight. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

There were no letters, phone calls or meetings in the interim years.

8. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] were quite elderly to be looking after such children. We had to work when we were at North Uist. We were used to work on the croft. We had to cut peat and gather the hay. It was a harsh environment but my clear memories of [REDACTED] was that she was kind and was nice to me. I don't consider there to have been any abuse of me there. [REDACTED] I think I was in North Uist for around a year.

9. We came down to Glasgow from North Uist in 1966. I didn't know then, but my sister has since told me, that my mother wanted her children back. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] QKZ never really had a relationship or bonded with my mother. She believed [REDACTED] our foster mother in North Uist, was her mother. QKZ had a very close relationship with [REDACTED]
10. When we came back to Glasgow we were treated like a commodity. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] because we spoke Gaelic we would be asked to sing a Gaelic song at school [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] You can imagine even back then, in an inner city school, how that maps you out.
11. [REDACTED]
12. During that time when we lived with my mother we were under the welfare and any income that came into the house came from the social security. All our clothes we got from the welfare. I went for free school dinners, even in the school holidays. We were fed and we were clothed and schooled but we were neglected by my mother . She was absent quite a lot and abandoned us a number of times. At no time did my mother ~~every physically or sexually abuse me in any shape or form~~, but she did neglect us. This is reflected in my children's file. I didn't realise this at the time but looking back as an adult I recognise this now.
13. I know now that my mother had mental health issues and was a depressive. She was regularly admitted to Woodilee Hospital in Kirkintilloch She was constantly lying on the settee. My father was never ever present in my life but did turn up on a number of occasions in Drumchapel and was verbally abusive to my mother, other family members and myself. My mother demanded that my sister QKZ fetch the police. QKZ resented my mother for this all her life and for our mother abandoning us. The police came to our door a number of times. I never considered that I had a father because he had no input in my life whatsoever. My eldest sister, [REDACTED]

sometimes took on the responsibility of caring for us in Drumchapel. I went to Cleddans Primary School in Drumchapel and [QKZ] went to Kingsridge Secondary.

14. Most of my childhood was spent in care apart from three years I was with my mother or my eldest sister who was caring for us during this time. I remember we had a social worker from Glasgow Corporation at the time we lived with my mother. He was called Mr Jas D Black. He had a green Morris Minor. I remember seeing him very occasionally. He took me to get clothes. I remember him taking us to get ice cream one time.
15. When I was with my mother I started expressing myself with some difficulty in my behaviour. This included soiling my pants constantly and I was diagnosed with encopretic condition which is detailed in the psychologists report dated 22 October 1968, which I have provided to the Inquiry. I would get up at two and three in the morning and wanted to go out and play. I may have had what would now be known as ADHD. My mum would just let me go out and I would go home when I was ready. I am not sure if the school arranged it but I saw a psychologist via the Corporation of Glasgow education department. I was put on some new medication to suppress my behaviour but my mother stopped it because it turned me into a zombie.
16. My mother abandoned us and I think she went to London and that is why myself and [QKZ] were taken into care again. [REDACTED] was pregnant by that time and was becoming an adult. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] It was only [QKZ] and myself who were left to go into care.
17. In 1969 my sister [QKZ] and myself spent two weeks with foster parents [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] They lived in [REDACTED] Drumchapel. I have read in my files that the social work department were trying to find somewhere for us to go because my mother had abandoned us again. From there we were taken to Quarriers.

18. No-one told me at any point where I was going or why. No-one told me that I was going to North Uist or explained why. The only thing I do remember when I was going to North Uist was being told I was going on a trip because we were getting a plane. It was only when I got off the plane I was informed that I had brothers and sisters [REDACTED]. No-one ever explained or told me why I was going back to live with my mother. The same goes for Quarriers. I was never involved in this process or asked my opinion. I had never been prepared or been made aware what these traumatic events meant and how it may affect me.
19. Just before I went in to Quarriers I was examined by a senior child psychologist. This report is dated 22 October 1968. This relates to my soiling habit and behaviour and what happened to me before I was in Quarriers and while in the care of my mother. This letter was in my Quarriers file. In this report Mr Stewart the senior psychologist said about me *'I visited the school and interviewed his teacher who assured me that, although the boy was difficult, he did not present a gross behaviour problem and it would not have occurred to them to send him to a child guidance clinic. The boy was not recalled to the clinic after the summer holidays in view of the mother's lack of co-operation'*. As my mother kept saying she had to deal with her divorce.

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

20. My sister [REDACTED] QKZ and I went to Quarriers in [REDACTED] 1969. I was very close to [REDACTED] QKZ probably because of the small age difference and we had spent a considerable amount of time together. I had a very close bond with her. I have read reports that Quarriers say family members were kept together. That's not true. [REDACTED] QKZ and I were separated as soon as we arrived. She didn't know where she was going and I didn't know where I was going. We were both vulnerable, distressed and clearly upset.
21. There was a definite management structure within Quarriers which oversaw and ensured the care of children under the house parents. You only have to read the Quarriers Homes annual reports to see this. There was a board of management detailing the great and the good. In my time there Dr Davidson was the director

general and then Dr Minto. Bill Dunbar was also in this office. Joe Mortimer was the superintendent in charge. His office was just inside the gates and was called Homelea. Quarriers say that the cottages were run on an autonomous basis but it is recorded in my children's file that Mortimer was involved in an incident with me and in the removal of some of my privileges. To this day I do not know nor understand what these privileges were that I supposedly had. Quarriers Homes management were undoubtedly involved and should have ensured the cottages were being administered properly.

### Living with the [REDACTED] QDE/QDF

22. The first house I went to was cottage [REDACTED]. It was run by Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] QDE/QDF. This wasn't run like a family home. This home was run like a military camp. Everything was very regimented and very disciplined. Mr [REDACTED] QDE was ex-army. His wife wore a white coat. What was odd was that they made us call them Mummy [REDACTED] QDF and Daddy [REDACTED] QDE. I already had a mother and father so this was strange to me. There would have been twelve to fifteen other children in this house. There was a mixture of boys and girls. The only names I remember were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. There were dormitories in this house with about eight children in each.
23. The older boys in this house controlled the younger ones. They didn't do it to help us it was more just a controlling thing. They knew the military system and sometimes the [REDACTED] QDE/QDF would tell them to get us to do things. They delegated the tasks. There was a definite hierarchy. The [REDACTED] QDE/QDF had two of their own children living there. A boy and a girl. The [REDACTED] QDE/QDF children, I felt, were treated differently, were given special treatment and were untouchable. If they said you had done something you would get into trouble whether you did it or not.
24. I don't recall any laughter or enjoyment in that house. There were no attempts by them to interact with me as a child. What I do recall is physical abuse. There was abuse if you did anything wrong. When I first arrived I tried to fit in and be like the

other kids who were already there. I didn't know the rules. All the [REDACTED] did was tell me where my bedroom was and where I would get fed. Nobody actually said how anything worked or what was expected. You had to fit into a regime that was cruel and brutal in every shape and form.

### **Routine in the [REDACTED] cottage**

#### *Mealtimes / Food*

25. Food was cooked by the house mother in the cottage. I didn't really have an issue with the actual food. If there was something I didn't like however, I would be made to sit at the table for a couple of hours just looking at it or sometimes it would be served up to me at my next meal and then the next. I was never force fed in this cottage.

#### *Washing / bathing*

26. I don't really remember much about bathing or washing at the [REDACTED]. One thing I do recall was sometimes I was bathed by the daughter of the [REDACTED]. She might have been about seventeen but I am unsure of her age. This would have been around 1969. I thought this was a bit odd. I think she was responsible for bathing all of the younger children.

#### *School*

27. I went to the school within Quarriers initially. There was a primary and a secondary. Most of the children in the cottages went to these schools. Some of the children with more academic potential went to schools outside Quarriers. It felt that the school in Quarriers was run a bit like St Trinians because I don't remember there being much class work. We seemed to spend more time out in the fields.

*Chores*

28. We were given chores to do like clearing up after lunch and then other extra tasks if you had done something wrong, or stepped out of line. They had this perverse thing in Quarriers where one cottage had to outshine another cottage. We used to have to put the milk can out right at the end of the cottage. This was a steel milk can and you had to have the shiniest milk can. Polishing the milk can was another job for the children. In the [REDACTED] house the cleaning jobs, including the buffering of the floors were mainly done by the children. Another chore was peeling the potatoes. If you cut the skin too thick or too thin you would be in trouble.

*Leisure time*

29. There were no toys or anything like that in this house that I recall. I don't really remember having any leisure time or play time with the [REDACTED]. All my spare time was used either polishing boots or ironing my cadet uniform. I remember there was an annual sports day that children got involved in. There were inter-cottage sports days with sack races, egg and spoon races and things like that, so there were some things going on.

*Visits / inspections / review of detention*

30. I recall my mother and my eldest sister came to see me initially. I was allowed to see them and we went a walk round the village. They thought the place was beautiful, which most people did think from an outside view. We weren't prevented from seeing people. They used to have a visitors day and all the cottages would be open and we would all be pristine wearing our Sunday best. We would be made to dress up and sit there smiling and we were told what to do. This open day was for people who had donated to Quarriers. I definitely never got any visit from a social worker when I was at the [REDACTED] house.



*Cottage aunties*

31. There were times when the [REDACTED] went on holiday. My recollection is that cottage aunties came in to stay during this time. I can't remember how often we saw these cottage aunties or even who they were. I just can't recall them. I am also unsure if they were present during the day. When the [REDACTED] were away the regime became more relaxed and we played up. We knew that when the [REDACTED] came back it would be back to what it was before.

*Contact with sister*

32. Even though my sister [REDACTED] was in another cottage no-one ever made the effort to let us see each other. We got to see each other in the school playground but that was it. I don't recall her ever being allowed to visit me in my cottage or me to visit her.

*Discipline*

33. The [REDACTED] would sometimes discipline me if I got into a row or had an argument with another resident but they wouldn't actually listen to what I might want to say. It was just the case that I was the last child in so I was the odd one out so I got the blame. I saw all of this as normal. I saw the behaviour of these people as normal. I didn't know any different. I recall being disciplined regularly through no fault of my own.

**Abuse at the [REDACTED] cottage**

34. Mr [REDACTED] had a walking stick that was like an ex-army baton. It was kept in the hall and he used to hit me with it. It was used as an implement to assault me on numerous occasions. Mr [REDACTED] would hit me basically on the legs or wherever with the baton. When they came back after they had been on a holiday if you had been reported for acting up, and yes I did act up, I was dragged down to the shed by

the hair. This shed was part of the house and was attached to the back of the cottage. It had a concrete floor and it was where we would keep our coats and our shoes. There was a toilet just off this room. It was dark in there and you weren't allowed to put the light on. I was very scared and frightened. I was then whacked with the baton and then told to stay in the shed. I am not saying this happened every single day because that would be wrong, but it happened. They both put us in there.

35. I would be dragged by the hair usually to the shed. To begin with I would just stand in the same spot because I was too frightened to move. I was alone. I thought these people could see me and what I was doing but eventually I realised, or got so cold because I was normally only wearing my pyjamas, that I just took the risk and took a coat off the peg and put it on. I could be there for hours, sometimes all night. They would go off to their beds and sometimes they would come back but sometimes they didn't.
36. We were made to polish the floors with a big buffer that, as a skinny child, I could hardly move it. The QDE/QDF would make us do this until you could see your face in the floor.
37. One time I ran away and was found in a garage in Quarriers. I was brought back by Joe Nicholson who was a House Parent. The QDE/QDF made me clean an uncleanable oven for a whole day. They kept coming in and saying it wasn't clean enough, so I had to keep doing it. I was using steel wool and my hands were blistered and sore. When I had finished it still wasn't clean enough for them and I was put in the shed. I was left there most of the night in just my pyjamas. When I ran away, I was just brought back and the punishments were worse.
38. Most of the things around this house were related to his army background because Mr QDE I was made to join the army cadets. There wasn't a choice in this matter. In the house I was made to spit and polish the boots. He kept saying that it wasn't good enough and to keep polishing. He said this over and over. We also had to clean the white cover things worn above the shoes. I spent most of

my week polishing the boots. I also had to make sure my army cadet uniform was pressed correctly. Every time I went to him with it he just said it wasn't good enough.

39. If I was getting ready for school and my tie was open or the knot wasn't right, either Mr or Mrs [REDACTED] would slap me to my head. Bed clothes had to be folded in certain way with envelope corners. If it wasn't folded correctly they would just strip the bed and I had to start again. Everything in there was very militarised. I would get slapped for something that I just didn't do right, or if it wasn't good enough. If I hadn't done my shoe lace. It could be simple things like that.
40. I saw this happening to other children. I saw the punishments of children being put in the shed and being made to eat food they did not want to eat. I saw children being made to sit there and be repeatedly re-served previous uneaten meals. You even got food, if you hadn't eaten it the night before, at breakfast. I think some people got wise and stuck the food in their pockets.
41. The punishments were unrestrained and excessive for whatever the misdemeanour was. My sister and I have always said that reasonable chastisement was acceptable, but this wasn't reasonable chastisement. What went on in this house was simply cruelty and brutality.
42. There was no love and no affection from the [REDACTED] There was no guidance or nurturing. It was like they were from the Victorian 'the child should be seen and not heard' era. When I swore at the house parent I don't recall being told "David that's naughty, you shouldn't behave like that" or "is there something wrong, is there something we can do". All I got was "right, clean that oven". They also said things like "your family never wanted you that's why you are in here". The only people I could have gone to if I was upset were a couple of the older children.
43. There was a girl in the [REDACTED] cottage and she had a terrible habit of coughing and shaking her leg. I learned in later life, [REDACTED] that she had Tourette's. That was never recognised by the [REDACTED] at the time. She was given a very hard time in my view, partly because

she was different to the rest of us, and because other children were cruel and she was picked on by them.

### Reporting of abuse at [REDACTED] cottage

44. When I ran away and was taken back to Quarriers, no-one ever asked me why I had run away. I don't recall anyone ever sitting down and asking me if I had any issues. Many times I reported to Mr Mortimer that I was getting abused. I can't remember what he said to me. Nothing was ever done when I told Mr Mortimer when I was with the [REDACTED] I was just returned to more punishment, cruelty and brutality. I just learned that no-one believed me or they did not care when I reported the abuse. The cottage parents in Quarriers homes I resided in were a law unto themselves. Another former resident from Quarriers, [REDACTED] has also informed the BBC 'Secrets or Lies' programme makers that I had been abused.
45. In my children's file it is recorded on 24 Feb 1971 that I decided to walk out stating that I hated cottage staff and everything in it. I said that no-one was any good and also that Linwood school was rotten. I remember saying this to the [REDACTED] because I was being mistreated by the cottage parents and the uncaring environment.

### Leaving the [REDACTED] cottage

46. I didn't react well to the military system and the environment in the [REDACTED] house. Consequently, children may have acted aggressively in this environment. According to the psychologist report dated 22 October 1968 which I gave to the Inquiry I was a vulnerable child and this should have been recognised. I didn't have gross behaviour before I went into Quarriers. Because of the way they were treating me I started playing up and I got into a couple of situations. I swore at the house parents and I reacted when they were being unreasonable and the punishments were excessive, brutal and cruel.

47. I had been saying that I wanted to be with my sister because after I had been at the [QDE/QDF] house for around a year and a half I was moved to a cottage run by the [QDH/QDI] where [QKZ] was.

### Living with the [QDH/QDI]

48. The [QDH/QDI] cottage, [REDACTED] was similar in size to the [QDE/QDF] but had a slightly different layout. There were a similar number of children. This cottage also had a shed out the back of the house. Living in this house was the complete opposite to living with the [QDE/QDF]. My sister was there and it was great being with her, it was fabulous. One of the [REDACTED] was called [QDH] but I cannot remember the other [REDACTED] name. We just called them the Auntie [QDH] and Auntie.
49. I initially thought it was great and they seemed quite nice people. I then realised that they didn't like my sister so I don't really know why they took me too. The [QDH/QDI] were a bit neurotic and were obsessed by making sure that the doors were shut and locked. Looking back I wonder if it was maybe because they were two women on their own in a big house. As a child I never understood any of that. I have to admit I was a bit naughty in that house. All the children in this cottage acted up to some degree as the regime was chaotic and dysfunctional.

### Routine at [QDH/QDI] cottage

#### *Chores*

50. We all helped with some of the stuff around the lunch, dinner and breakfast. Children would be given chores of cleaning the cutlery and setting the tables and stuff like that. Sometimes I actually quite enjoyed that because you felt that you were being helpful and it was something you could do. Sometimes a couple of children would be picked to make sure all the shoes were clean and polished but it wasn't like the [QDE/QDF] where you had to polish them day in and day out. There was no spit and

polish. It was just a task and it wasn't viewed as a bad task. I think it was reasonable to ask us to contribute to the life of the cottage.

### *Religion*

51. Not going to church in Quarriers wasn't an option generally when I was at Quarriers. We went every Sunday, sometimes on a Wednesday evening too. Sometimes on a Friday evening I would go to something that was church related, depending on what house you were in. It was determined by the house parents how many times you went to church. Children in Quarriers went to church every Sunday morning and evening. I also went to something called 'Time for Teens' on a Sunday. I think it is fair to say having come from Drumchapel we weren't used to going to church. In addition I understand I was nominally a catholic as that was the religion of my father but my mother wanted us raised as Protestants.

### *Leisure time*

52. There was a playroom in the [QDH/QDI] house where there were toys, and games. If I was ever given toys I would probably give them away. I probably wasn't used to having toys so I used to give them away.

### *Running away*

53. I ran away, I don't know how many times. I was brought back by the police on a number of occasions. I suppose I thought it was quite an adventure, even being brought back in a police car, but ultimately the police were just bringing us back and leaving us with our abusers.

### **Abuse at [QDH/QDI] cottage**

54. I realised that the [QDH/QDI] were always picking on my sister and then they started picking on me. Some of it was subtle and some of it wasn't subtle.

Sometimes I would go and ask them a question, but I was ignored. They wouldn't include me in conversations, and basically they would just ignore me. They would ask other children to come into the staff sitting room but not me or [QKZ]. With the benefit of hindsight [QKZ] and myself were subjected to psychological abuse. This included name calling, insults, threats to send us both to a remand home, isolating us from the rest of the children and not including us in meaningful activities. My sister reported this to a Joe Mortimer and was sent to a child psychologist.

55. The shed was also used as an instrument or punishment in this particular house. It was used in the same way it was used in the [QDE/QDF] house. The only difference here was that on occasion there was a mattress down there or they told the child to take their mattress down to the shed. I saw some children dragging their mattresses down to the shed and they were made to sleep in there overnight. It was a regular punishment for me getting put in the shed by the [QDH/QDI]. I saw my sister getting put in the shed too. I can't remember if I took my mattress down or if there was one already in there.
56. I was physically hit with a belt by the [QDH/QDI] and I saw my sister being hit with a belt. I was physically slapped. I would generally get hit if I had done something or had challenged something or maybe had said something. My hair was pulled. I saw these things happening to my sister and to other children in the house too. It was clear that they didn't want my sister and I in that house. [QKZ] was very good at sports and she was a tom boy. She was quite popular and they seemed to resent her popularity and they picked on her. I have referred the Inquiry to a Quarriers video which I got [REDACTED]. In this video my sister is the [REDACTED]. Both [QDH/QDI] would administer punishment.
57. There was an instance where my sister had read stuff in a file in the staff sitting room. I can't recall what it was. It may have been about herself or them. That seemed to be a major thing and they got very upset. My sister was punished. One of the things they did to punish her was they stopped her playing sport.

58. I was a bit disruptive one Sunday when we were in the church. When we got back to the house the [QDH/QDI] weren't happy. They started picking on [QKZ] for some reason so my sister blamed me and said it was because I had misbehaved. That went on and they were just horrible to both of us. As a punishment they made me peel potatoes. When I was doing it they checked every single potato and the peeling skins. They would say "it was too thick" or "it was too thin", or "it has got a bit still left in the potato". This went on for hours and hours and they were goading and pushing me.
59. I eventually did react badly but this was after two months of being emotionally and psychologically abused by the [QDH/QDI] and seeing my sister physically and emotionally abused by them. I snapped and I ran after one of the [QDH/QDI] with the potato peeler. I couldn't say now which one of them it was. I didn't actually threaten her with it, I just ran after her and she ran away upstairs to her room. I got up the stairs and banged on the door with the peeler. By that time I thought it was a waste of time and my anger had subsided. In my children's file it states that I ran after the house parents with a carving knife. This is simply untrue. I was not peeling the potatoes with a carving knife. My sister confirmed this [REDACTED]
60. I accept that we were misbehaving and playing up but that is what happens with children if you take them out of a military regime and then put them into a sort of chaotic and dysfunctional playground. Control was lax and looking back children appeared to run amok. If cottage parents abuse you and your sibling in many ways, you will react and play up. It was a sort of dysfunctional environment. I don't want to say that everything was bad about them but I wasn't in the house long enough to see many good things. In comparison, and looking back as an adult to my time in the [QDE/QDF] cottage, my time with the [QDH/QDI] wasn't as bad, but I was only there for a short period. I certainly did not like how they were treating me and my sister.
61. Just like in the [QDE/QDF] house the level of punishment in the [QDH/QDI] house was not reasonable chastisement, it was brutality and cruelty. Looking back as an adult



the psychological abuse that my sister and I suffered, unlike physical bruises, will never heal and remain with me. My sister and I were treated very harshly by these cottage parents.

### Reporting of abuse at [QDH/QDI] cottage

62. Just like when I had been at [QDE/QDF] cottage I told Joe Mortimer that my sister and I were now being abused by the [QDH/QDI]. I know my sister also reported the [QDH/QDI]. We must have reported it to Mr Mortimer at least five times. I believe that [QKZ] was examined by a psychologist as a result of the abuse she reported. I have given to the Inquiry of a psychologists report dated November 1969. It was compiled by Elaine H Symington. In this report [QKZ] was referred for examination as a result of being completely unmanageable. [QKZ] however painted the different picture that she had been victimised. I am not sure if the Davidsons left after this or as a result of this report.
63. When the punishments were excessive my sister and I reported this to Joe Mortimer and we reported the various house parents. I told him I had been made to stand in a shed all night many times. I told him I had been slapped, my hair had been pulled and that I had been punched many times. Joe Mortimer was well aware of what was going on in Quarriers and in the cottages my sister and I resided in.

### Leaving [QDH/QDI] cottage

64. The incident with the potato peeler was reported to Mr Mortimer and I was removed from the house. I was taken back to the [QDE/QDF] house. My sister remained with the [QDH/QDI] but [QKZ] told me later that the [QDH/QDI] left not long after I left the cottage because she had reported them.

**Living back with the [REDACTED] QDE/QDF**

65. After being with the [REDACTED] QDH/QDI, I went back to live with the [REDACTED] QDE/QDF and stayed with them for about nine months in cottage [REDACTED]. I am not sure how it happened but I went to a school outside Quarriers. I went to Linwood High School in Renfrewshire. The regime in the [REDACTED] QDE/QDF house was exactly the same as before. The discipline and punishments continued as before. I think there were more staff in the house by this time so these domestic staff were doing more of the chores we were doing. I think when I went back it was slightly easier for me because I was used to the military type regime from before.

**Living with the [REDACTED] QKR/QKY**

66. I had always expressed throughout my time in Quarriers that I wanted to be with my sister. Eventually the powers that be must have listened. I was moved back to cottage [REDACTED] around March 1971. The [REDACTED] QDH/QDI had left and it was now [REDACTED] QKR/QKY [REDACTED] QKR/QKY in cottage [REDACTED].
67. When you come through the front door [REDACTED] straight ahead was a children's sitting room. Next to that was a kitchen. To the right of the front door was a staff sitting room. There was a play room on the corner of the building. From the playroom there was a small flight of stairs, maybe two or three steps which led to bathrooms. There weren't toilets in there from what I recall. There was a separate toilet and then through another door was the shed. It was a concrete and wooden structure from what I recall and there were windows around it. It was a large room where all the children put their coats and shoes. It was also used as a bike store. There was a toilet just off the shed.
68. As you came through from the children's sitting room you entered the kitchen. The kitchen was quite a large kitchen with a little side pantry which was part of the kitchen. From the kitchen it looked onto cottage [REDACTED]. On the other side was Mr Mortimer's house. Upstairs was the girls' bedroom, the staff bedroom and the boys'

bedroom. Next to that bedroom was a bathroom. Next to that bathroom was another small room where their children slept. The [QKR/QKY] didn't have any children of their own when I initially arrived. They had one child when I was there and another after I left Quarriers.

69. There were maybe twelve to fourteen children in this cottage when I went to live with Mr and Mrs [QKR/QKY]. The age range was probably from six up to sixteen. There were three or four family groups. There was [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and I think [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

70. There were two house aunts and there was a part-time cleaner that I recall in my time there. One house auntie was [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I understand he was also involved in the intimidation of witnesses. The other was Auntie Louise. The house aunts came mostly during the day. I think they stayed overnight sometimes if the [QKR/QKY] were on holiday but I don't remember much about that. Auntie Louise was removed from Quarriers after an incident at a swimming pool when we were on holiday. The children were all mucking about, playing and pulling each other's trunks down. She pulled my trunks down. There was nothing sexual in what she did, it was just playing. [REDACTED] [QKY] went mad at her and she was removed from Quarriers. Auntie Louise was really nice and she was kind to me and all the children.

71. Initially I was happy to be in that house because my sister was there. Everything seemed okay, and there was nothing untoward in the first couple of weeks. Again, however, I came across a situation where the house father, [REDACTED] [QKY] seemed to be picking incessantly on my sister. My sister was like any normal teenage girl. Quarriers had been giving her a clothing allowance to buy clothes but the [QKR/QKY] didn't want her to buy what she wanted to buy. They didn't want her going to the youth club. They didn't want her engaging in stuff that she wanted to do. They wanted her to be involved in the church activities. [REDACTED] [QKZ] didn't want to do that.

She wanted to play sport and mix with the other girls outside the cottage. My sister was popular with these groups of girls.

### Routine at QKR/QKY cottage

#### *First day*

72. The routine at the QKR/QKY house was very similar to the QDE/QDF. By then I was going to Linwood School so I didn't come home for lunch. I would eat in the cottage at breakfast time and after school. I had lunch at school. I would have lunch at Quarriers at the weekends and during the holidays. We would normally have our dinner when we came in from school, normally I think about 5 o'clock because all the kids and everybody ate together.

#### *Mealtimes / Food*

73. I actually thought the food was good but there were certain things I didn't like. I liked most things and generally didn't have a problem with the food. There was never any issue about whether there was sufficient food. The only issue was if you didn't finish your meal it would be re-served. I saw QKY force feeding other children.

#### *Leisure time*

74. In the cottage there was a playroom and we had toys and games. The only activities outside the actual cottage that I was allowed to get involved in were usually church related. I was restricted because that is what the QKR/QKY wanted. There was a park and a boating pond which we did go to, but only very occasionally. Quarriers had a youth club but I wasn't allowed to go there because this wasn't anything to do with the church. Like other cottage parents the QKR/QKY were quite fundamental Christians. They made me go to a crusaders club in Greenock. I think it was either a Wednesday or Friday night. I had no choice in the matter. In later years got picked to be in Linwood High School's Gilbert and Sullivan production of Pirates of Penzance.

*Trips / holidays*

75. [REDACTED] I went on various excursions and trips with them. I was told by another former resident after I had left Quarriers that they were still taking [REDACTED] on the trips. They were meeting up with other boys from Northern Ireland [REDACTED] on boat trips who were from Kincora which is a care home in Northern Ireland.

*Visits / Inspections/ Review of Detention*

76. I don't ever recall seeing a social worker while I was in Quarriers. In my file, which I have, there are two letters that mention a social worker. I don't ever recall any contact with one. I was not aware while in Quarriers that there was even a social work department. There was a Margaret Orr and she resided in the lodge at Quarriers which is just opposite the Homelea office. My understanding, after my abuser was convicted, is that she was the social worker for Quarriers. I don't ever recall being interviewed by her or anyone else in Quarriers at any time during my care. There are no notes in my file indicating where these did take place.

**QKY [REDACTED] physical abuse**

77. Although I said the food was generally quite good, sometimes if you didn't finish your meal it would be re-served. You would be made to eat the food even if you didn't like it or if it made you sick. I saw some children being force fed by [REDACTED] QKY He would violently grab children by their hair and force them to eat the food by shoving a spoon or fork with food down their throats.
78. There were arguments between my sister [REDACTED] QKZ and [REDACTED] QKY until this resulted in a confrontation. I was downstairs and my sister was upstairs. I don't know what she was doing but I heard shouting and I wondered what was going on. The next thing there was a bit of a rumpus and my sister came running down the stairs and her face was covered in blood. She ran down to Homelea where the offices are and

she went to Mr Mortimer and explained what had happened. Her nose looked really swollen and bruised. I am not aware if she received any medical attention but it must have been a brutal force. Her nose may have been broken.

79. About a week later I came back from school and [QKZ] had gone. There was no explanation given, nothing. The [QKR/QKY] to pacify me, told me my sister had gone to college and she was going to be living outside of the home now. She was gone and I was left. I was very distressed and upset about that. I recall rocking myself to sleep, constantly crying and acting up. They had convinced me that she had gone to a better place and that she would come and visit me as she was not that far away. She never did visit me. I found out years later that my sister had been moved to a hostel in Dennistoun, Glasgow.
80. I threw a vase once and I didn't actually mean to hit this girl but it clipped her leg. He came in like a raging bull and dragged me by the hair, he was punching me and took me down to the shed to beat me up. He took me down there basically so that no one could see what he was doing. He just continued beating me. There was also physical abuse if you challenged anything. There were other occasions where he beat me with a belt. I was in The Boys Brigade in that house and it was with a BB belt. He would punch me too and it is difficult to recall why this happened.
81. ~~Sometimes we were made to stand in a line in the playroom and be interrogated by [QKY] until someone owned up to something that had been done. Children blamed other children wrongly and reported them to the [QKR/QKY] for things they didn't do. When he identified who was responsible he would grab them violently by the hair, hit them then drag them down to the shed.~~
82. There was one time when I had an argument with [QKR] on the stairs and she kicked me. I kicked her back. When he came home he was told that I had kicked her. I was dragged down the stairs and smacked around the head. I was then sent to my bed. I told him a couple of times that I was going to report him. He told me that if I did I would end up in a borstal [REDACTED] He also made comment, or more of a threat, about what had happened to my sister. I went up to

my bed that night and my ear was gushing with blood. It was the most excruciating pain I had ever had. I came downstairs to them two or three times and told them I needed help. They just told me to get back to my bed. The pain had subsided by the morning but there was blood on my pillow. I never got any medical attention for that.

83. I saw [QKY] physically abusing other children in the house. He would grab people by the hair and punch them to any part of the body. There is absolutely no doubt that [QKR] saw [QKY] physically abusing me and others in the cottage. She did nothing to stop it. She would see the start and then you would be taken away from her down to the shed.

[QKR] abuse

84. [QKR] neglected me and wilfully mistreated me. I saw [redacted] being refused medical attention. She had a walking problem but it was like she was a problem to the house parents. I saw other children being mistreated. One of them being [redacted] I was refused medical attention concerning my ear and I had a bad habit of licking my lips which became very chapped, cracked and bled. I asked for something to treat it but never got anything to heal it.

85. The way [QKR] mistreated me was mostly around food issues. She would make me eat re-served meals I hadn't finished at previous mealtimes. They were not even re-heated just re-served. I genuinely thought the food was good in Quarriers it was just certain things I didn't like. One time I was served gammon and pineapple but I did not like the pineapple. I was made to sit for hours at the table. All the time she was baiting me, making nasty comments about me. There were nasty comments every time I was in the kitchen. One time eventually I exploded and I believe it may have been because [QKY] tried to force feed me. I threw my plate across the kitchen. I reacted. There were also instances of physical abuse by [QKR] [QKR] and when [QKY] wasn't there she would put me in the shed.

86. [REDACTED] QKR constantly said to my sister, “your mother never wanted you” and “you will just end up like your mother with kids who have no mother”. I was told by a number of people when I was at Quarriers and by the [REDACTED] QKR/QKY that my mother never wanted me and that is why I was there. [REDACTED] QKR said it to my sister a number of times while she was there.
87. [REDACTED] QKR used to rant and rave and get very angry with children for no apparent reason. She had extreme mood swings. My sister echoes this in her statement she made to the police [REDACTED] Her mood swings were very erratic and changeable.
88. The [REDACTED] QKR/QKY clearly had their favourite children, some they had for many years before my sister and I. These favoured children used this status to blame others for things they did not do. Invariably the [REDACTED] QKR/QKY took the side of these children.

### **John Porteous sexual abuse**

89. The sexual abuse started almost immediately [REDACTED] QKZ left. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]
90. There was a toy store in Quarriers which I understand was the old fire station. He had keys for everywhere that he wanted to go. I went with him and there must have been bags of all the donated stuff that came into the homes. He took me there and it was like, “do you want that bike?”, “do you want this or that?” He gave me a bike and at some other point a tennis racquet. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] He even got me a pet rabbit, and looking back, this was his way of getting my confidence. He gained my trust, he groomed me, and he gave me extra treats. I felt special. I felt liked. I felt wanted, loved.
91. John Porteous groomed and sexualised me. He abused me in every way, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] The sexual abuse happened over a three year period in multiple locations at multiple times.



92. The sexual abuse started with him coming into the bathroom while I was in the bath. In the bathroom there were two baths side by side. Normally what happened was when the boys and girls were having baths they would be in either bath. Eventually I became the oldest boy in the house and I was allowed to start having a bath on my own. He then started coming down to the bathroom and demanded to be let in. He said he wanted to make sure I was clean. I thought this was all normal, but I used to try and avoid opening the door. I remember he would make me open the door and I had to get out the bath and un-snib the lock. Sometimes I would scrape my shins on the side of the bath in my hurry to get out the bath and cover myself up with my towel or dressing gown before opening the door.
93. John Porteous would come into the bathroom and he would make me stand up. He would say that he was cleaning me. He would start to lather my body. He would then start to play with me. He would concentrate on my genitals or on my anus. He would use his finger saying he was just cleaning my anus. I don't even think I had reached puberty and don't believe I had pubic hair or could get an erection when he first started doing it. I was very immature for my age. I now know he was sexualising and grooming me. He was getting me ready for whatever he eventually wanted to do.
94. This eventually progressed to where I was maturing. My body was reacting and I had an erection. The first time I ever had an orgasm it was [REDACTED] done in such a hurry. Looking back I think he was in a hurry because he was worried he might have got caught. My penis swelled up afterwards and I was worried it was going to drop off. I know this sounds funny but I had to keep checking it at school. I just wanted to make sure it was still there. Things progressed and the abuse happened any time John Porteous could get me on my own. After this John Porteous was constantly masturbating me in the bathroom.
95. I remember an occasion [REDACTED] he pulled back my foreskin and it was very painful. He then turned me round and checked my backside. I know now you wouldn't check a child like that.

96. Another time [REDACTED] He appeared [REDACTED] He then pretended to start play fighting me and was grabbing me. I was a boy and he was a strong man. He pinned me down [REDACTED] He then pulled my underwear down and he was asking me "can you feel it, can you feel it?" He had an erection [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I screamed that it was hurting. We got disturbed and I recall hearing voices [REDACTED]

97. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] he was putting his hands [REDACTED] to feel me and touch my genitals, to interfere with me. I used to roll over into a locked position where hopefully he couldn't do it. I was very mixed up because I had attachment feelings, like a son to his father. Having discussed this with my counsellor I may have also had what is known as the Stockholm syndrome. I became so disturbed when I was there that I used to constantly run away and in bed I kind of rocked myself to sleep in a shaking motion.

98. [REDACTED]

99. [REDACTED] John Porteous was showing me baby books. There were also some other books with adults having babies and you could see the man with an erection and the naked women. He was also showing me soft porn books. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He would masturbate me [REDACTED] [REDACTED] This was happening perhaps two, three maybe four times every week. It was constant.

100. There were other times he would take me, as a kind of a treat, to the church to help him out. I don't believe he was officially the church officer but he may have just been doing it if somebody was on holiday. He selected me to go and help him. I suppose by this time I had become compliant. I thought I was special and all this was normal. He threatened me that I would be put in borstal [REDACTED] if I told anyone or he would tell me to look at what happened to my sister. In Quarriers we wore our 'Sunday best' and like others in the cottage I wore a kilt. It was kind of like a uniform of Quarriers in some cottages, to wear a kilt going to church.
101. Nobody else was there. It was just me and him. This was before the church services started on a Sunday and we would be getting the church ready. We would lay the bibles out and there were boards where we would put the numbers for the hymns that were going to be sung that day. I also took down the collection to the vestry on a couple of occasions. He would lock downstairs so nobody actually knew we were in the church.
102. He took me up into the bell tower and would tell me that I wasn't tidy enough. There was no escape. He would then just abuse me the way he wanted to abuse me, sexually. He would have his hands up my kilt and he would get me to put my hands down his trousers. He would masturbate me [REDACTED] He was depraved, a very dangerous paedophile and a very manipulative person. If I resisted any of the sexual abuse, it became very physical and he got very angry. I cannot be precise about my age at this time but I was around fourteen or fifteen.
103. I didn't want this abuse happening. One time, when I got myself into a situation and I knew the minister was nearby I used a swear word. I thought I would be told that I couldn't come down to the church. I was told when I got back to the cottage to write a psalm over and over. It was one of the longest psalms in the bible but that was my punishment. It got me out of actually going to do any duties in the church anymore.
104. The abuse didn't happen very often in the bell tower because I didn't go there with him for very long, but it did happen a number of times.

105. John Porteous used to take me down to the shed [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] In the shed, he had this habit of always taking my trousers or my pyjamas bottoms down. He would tell me to take my pants or trousers off and put me over his knee. He would put his hand on my bare bottom then sometimes pretend he was slapping me but then his hand was actually fondling me. This happened quite regularly under the guise of punishment for something. I thought this was normal and it is only through talking to my psychiatrist that I now appreciate that it was not right and was another form of sexual abuse.
106. John Porteous, through the Boys Brigade, took me on various excursions and trips. At the time I didn't think anything was wrong but from my recollection John Porteous showered naked with the boys in a communal shower. It was just wrong. I remember that I spent some time in hospital, because I didn't want to be on the trip. I can't remember if I actually had an injury or not, but I told them I did and I got taken back to Quarriers from the trip then went to the Elise hospital. They didn't find an injury and I think I was just trying to get away from what was happening.
107. John Porteous came on a shopping trip with my clothing allowance and he chose some underwear for me. [REDACTED] he made me parade around wearing only this underwear. All the time he was touching and rubbing his private parts. He was sexually aroused.

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### Leaving [REDACTED] QKR/QKY cottage and Quarriers

108. I spent over three years [REDACTED] under the care of Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] QKR/QKY  
The natural progression at that time would have been for me to go via the hostel. The hostel was supposed to prepare you for living outside Quarriers. I had kept asking to go to it because my peers, the people I went to school with and my best friend were all there. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

109. I left Quarriers in May 1974. I had just left school by then. I went to a careers event at school and, because I had been interested in cookery, I started thinking about a career as a chef. At this event there was a presentation by Trust House Forte who were looking for trainee managers for the Excelsior Hotel at Glasgow Airport. I subsequently had an interview with them. My recollections were that the [REDACTED] QKR/QKY were on holiday at this time so I went to the office and I told Mortimer that I had got a 'live in' job and that I was leaving. I think I had a letter saying that I had a start date which I showed to Mr Mortimer. I went back, packed some stuff and I left with some money from my clothing allowance. I was gone before the [REDACTED] QKR/QKY came back. I think the [REDACTED] QKR/QKY were very annoyed with me.
110. I went back to visit the [REDACTED] QKR/QKY for a while after I left but basically this was because I didn't really have a home. I had nowhere that I could call home. Between 1974 and 1984, because my sister wanted me to, I very occasionally sent the [REDACTED] QKR/QKY a Christmas card. In that period I may have sent three cards. Also my best friend used to visit his former cottage parent and we would arrange to meet in Quarriers. When I was there I ignored John Porteous and didn't really speak to him. I stopped seeing them in 1984 after I started seeing a psychologist and I realised that what he had done to me was wrong.
111. I never wanted any of this sexual abuse that happened to me in Quarriers. I didn't encourage it or did anything to deserve it. I believe I was just picked because, reflecting back, I was a good looking boy. I don't know if that was the case and only he can answer that. The sexual abuse against me was always when there was no one else around. He would always make sure we were on our own and he appeared to have keys for most of the buildings in Quarriers.
112. I became disturbed in Quarriers because of what was happening to me. It is hard to explain, but there was some kindness mixed in but it was warped kindness. John Porteous was definitely responsible [REDACTED] [REDACTED] for the sexual abuse. I would say that John Porteous sexually abused me two, three or four times a week, and at any time he could. He would always make sure we were on our own. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The sexual abuse continued until not long before I left Quarriers. I couldn't escape from his abuse [REDACTED]

113.

#### Reporting of abuse at [REDACTED] cottage

114. When [REDACTED] QKY hit my sister's face off the sink she went to Mr Mortimer's office and told him what happened. Mr Mortimer took her back to the cottage and I followed. They went into the staff sitting room and I was told to stay in the playroom. After Mr Mortimer left, [REDACTED] QKZ went upstairs, because she had been told to do so. I went up to see her and she said that [REDACTED] QKY had smashed her face off the sink. She also said that Mr Mortimer had told her that if she made a report [REDACTED] QKY will be gone and that this was a very serious thing for her to do. Mr Mortimer had left her to think about it. For senior management of a care home to put that decision into the hands of a child is, in my view a clear abdication of duty of care, responsibility and completely unacceptable.

115. I ran away from the [REDACTED] QKR/QKY three or four times. Nothing is recorded in my children's file for this cottage about me running away. Each time I recall being brought back by the police. On one occasion I may have come back myself. No one ever asked me why I ran away. I did tell Joe Mortimer many times that I was being physically abused when I was living with the [REDACTED] QKR/QKY He didn't do anything about it.

116. I probably told other house parents as well. I can't remember exactly who but they would be who I felt comfortable with. People knew in the village if a cottage wasn't a

good cottage. They called them good and bad cottages. The [REDACTED] QKR/QKY cottage from what I can see was deemed a good cottage.

### Quarriers positive experiences

117. I came across many good and decent carers in Quarriers and others in the organisation. I will name some of these people. Mr [REDACTED] QDY My sister would have confirmed this. My sister was good at sports. She was given opportunities to go skiing and be involved in sports. He ran a lot of the sporting activities and was a very decent person. I now understand he was an ex-police officer. I had some dealings with the minister, Mr Fraser in Quarriers and his wife, Mrs Fraser after the trial. They were also very decent people.
118. There were other house parents that I knew through other children who ran their houses well. It is for the Inquiry to determine whether it was a good house or not but from the outside it appeared to me that they were well run. I had interactions with some of these cottage parents within the village. One was Auntie Ann Kerr, another one was Auntie Ann Craig, another person was [REDACTED] QDJ and there were some others that obviously I came across in my time.
119. In a way it has been very difficult for me to talk about what happened to me because there was a good side to Quarriers and there were good people there. I was also confused and too embarrassed and ashamed to say anything to anybody. Quarriers in my view was a very progressive organisation. I had that view as a child and as an adult now. Quarriers introduced a teenager's clothing allowance which was an idea way beyond its time that teenagers could be responsible and go and buy some of their own clothes. In my time they introduced a hostel for when people were leaving the organisation. Quarriers had a number of activities for children that they could engage in like the Boys Brigade, the Girl Guides, the Brownies, a youth club and the army cadets. As a child it did depend on the individual cottage parents on what you could become involved in.

120. Outings were arranged and we used to go trips and see things like the gang show in Glasgow. We were also taken on trips to the Kelvnhall at Christmas and I think they had a fair there. These were the positive aspects of the organisation.
121. In my time children were given pocket money but that obviously was controlled by the house parents. I don't recall in my time with the [QDE/QDF] or the [QDH/QDI] ever been given pocket money and allowed to be able to spend it as I wished. I do recall that when I was with the [QKR/QKY] children could buy sweets and things. My sister got a job in the tuck shop and in the laundry when she was in Quarriers.
122. Quarriers had its own swimming pool. Before I went to Quarriers my sister and I couldn't swim. I learned to swim there. I clearly recall the swimming master, [QKW] [QKW] who was a very nice person. There was like a film club in the Sommerville Weir Hall called the Saturday Film Club and there were children's movies shown. Again it did depend on the house parents if they permitted you to go.
123. My sister and I were given the opportunity to go on a school cruise. My sister went on one and I went on one. Part of the learning from that was that we were told we would have to save up and get some spending money. Quarriers had its own garage where they kept their cars and their bits and pieces so I helped out at the weekend and I washed cars and got paid for that. It wasn't a lot of money but it was extra money which went towards my school cruise pocket money.
124. In another way Quarriers were progressive because they arranged for me to have a weekend family. My mother came to visit me in the very early years but after that I had no visitors for probably four years. I think it would have been in my last year at Quarriers that they arranged for me to have a sort of weekend family who were really kind to me. I probably went to see them maybe once every six weeks or once a month and they lived in Glasgow.
125. There were occasions where I have fond memories and felt kindness and inclusion in my time with the [QKR/QKY] This only contributed to the confusion. Not every memory is tainted by my bad experiences. The [QKR/QKY] would play board games



with some of the children and it felt friendly and genuine. It seemed like a normal family setting sometimes, however in fact it was contrived and in fact a distortion and perversion of what should be normal family behaviour. They would ask me to cook a soufflé for both of them on occasions and I felt extra special.

126. When I was with the [QKR/QKY] we used to go on holiday to places like Aberdeen and Turnberry. Turnberry was a great place because when you got there, there was a fridge full of ice cream. There was a more relaxed regime there. Around about the age of sixteen I was on one of these holiday breaks in Turnberry. I had been encouraged at school to do food and nutrition, and cookery. I was often made to feel special in the [QKR/QKY] house because of my cooking. In these holiday homes they had a swimming pool, not in the actual home but a separate swimming pool in the grounds of Turnberry.
127. I have provided to the Inquiry a letter written by [QKZ] to Joe Mortimer. She had been on a field trip and was chosen to write the letter on behalf of the other children there. [QKZ] was one of the better writers. It was thanking Mr Mortimer for the trip to Edinburgh which they all enjoyed. This was another positive experience in Quarriers.

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

128. I got the job at the Excelsior Hotel in Glasgow and I lived in the staff quarters for a while. It was difficult for me to hold down a permanent job so I did some seasonal work. I was given the opportunity to go and work in France where I worked for eighteen months in various establishments. I learned French. The regimentation of Quarriers actually stood me well. In hotels, particularly in the back of house, everything is about polishing and cleaning. I was used to that discipline in some ways but I still couldn't hold a job down.
129. In France I did quite well then came back and initially lived with my sister [REDACTED] in Bromley, South London. I got a job in a restaurant in the city. I had a very supportive boss and I bought my first house. My boss helped me financially towards some of

the deposit costs and I later paid him back. I worked there for quite a long time until I got a job with one of the big international banks looking after their entertainment side. I ran that for about five years and while I was there I won the company restaurant of the year award for the UK. That opened other doors for me and I had people contacting me wanting me to work for them. I used to do extra work and shifts in a number of jobs so that I could afford and have some nice things in life.

130. I then worked for one of the big multi-national accountancy companies doing the same thing for a number of years in London. I started thinking about what the QKR/QKY said to me and my sister. "You have come from nothing and you will go back to nothing and you would be nothing." Those comments that I heard in Quarriers were driving me to be the person I wanted to be. I wanted to succeed. The poverty and deprivation I wanted to escape from. I went to business school and came out with a distinction and set up a recruitment company in the city of London. Initially I focused on catering because that is what I knew. I then branched out into other areas like office personnel. I had about 200 staff, permanent and temporary. My life was relatively stable. I had started dipping in and out of property so by that time I had properties that I was renting out.
131. After the trial and the airing of the program I gave up work and liquidated my business primarily through health reasons. I put a manager in but to run a business the owner needs to be strong and able to run that business. The media assassination around the time of the programme 'Secrets or Lies' had a major impact on me.
132. In 2005 I went on a course where they were looking for people to work in the NHS. One of the tutors who was running this course thought that I would be really good to work in that field so I applied, I got some interviews and I started working in the NHS in 2005. I have worked in the NHS since then.

Call from [REDACTED]

133. I was at home one Friday in 2002 and I got a phone call from [REDACTED]. I can't remember the exact details but she said that some people had said horrible things about John [REDACTED] John. I believe she mentioned something about allegations. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] said that she was looking for support. I told [REDACTED] that things had happened in Quarriers which shouldn't have and that John Porteous had abused me. I don't believe that the purpose of the call was to seek support. I believe she wanted to deter me from contacting or speaking to the police. I now believe that it was an attempt, and they succeeded in some ways, to stop witnesses going to court, to stop witnesses [REDACTED] giving evidence. I know of others who they did this to. They did the same thing in 1982 when John Porteous was first investigated. I firmly believe that these approaches by [REDACTED] were attempts to pervert the course of justice as were other attempts by others involving other witnesses in this case.

134. I really wanted her off the phone. She opened up a can of worms for me if I am honest. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] After my phone call from [REDACTED] in 2002 I wasn't sure what was happening. I felt that the past care system had turned me over and screwed me so much that I didn't trust anyone. I didn't know what was happening so I called my eldest sister who told me to go to the police. I then called a former resident and I asked what was going on and they didn't really tell me any information. They just said John Porteous had been charged and said to me that they had told Porteous to keep his head down and he will be alright. That annoyed me. I thought that John Porteous was going to get off with it so I contacted Strathclyde Police.

## Reporting of Abuse

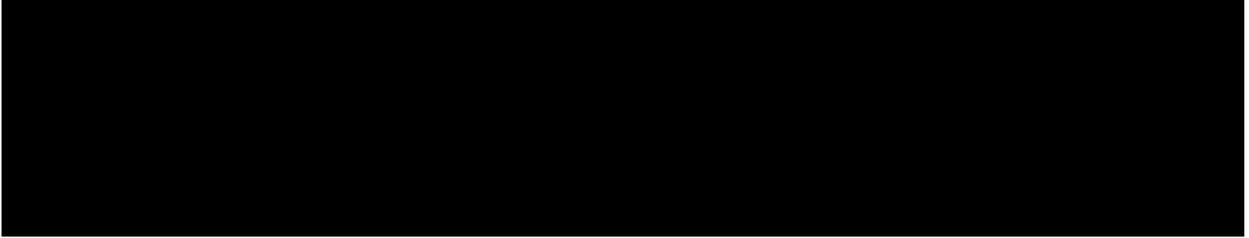
135. The difficulty with all the positive stuff within Quarriers made it more difficult as a child to report some of the abuse. On the other hand you were threatened that you would be put away and as a child in care you learn that there are worse places where you can be put. They had removed my sister after she had complained about [REDACTED] QKY [REDACTED] physically abusing her. The longer the sexual abuse went on, the more confused, embarrassed and ashamed I became and the harder it became to tell anyone.
136. I probably would have taken my abuse in Quarriers to the grave if [REDACTED] hadn't contacted me in 2002. After she contacted me I contacted the police and gave a statement to DC Mhari Milne at Greenock Police Station. This was the first time I had ever reported anything to the police. I have provided to the Inquiry a copy of the statement I made to the police. I was also interviewed by the procurator fiscal. I also gave a testimony to Tom Shaw when he was doing his report on historical abuse systemic review. I have provided this to the Inquiry.
137. My sister [REDACTED] QKZ [REDACTED] is now deceased but she gave a statement to the police in 2002. In this statement, which I have provided to the Inquiry, she talks of the incident with [REDACTED] QKY [REDACTED] where her face was hit off the sink. [REDACTED] QKZ [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] QKY [REDACTED]

## Trial of John Porteous

138. In relation to John Porteous the procurator fiscal charged him with fourteen offences before he went on trial in November 2002. Ten of those charges were for offences of a sexual nature against me and four others which were said to have taken place between 1969 and 1982. The charges included alleged crimes that ranged from shameful indecency to oral sex, masturbation and un-natural carnal connection. Three of the charges were not of a sexual nature. They related to alleged physical

abuse and intimidation of three children in his early care in the late 60's and early 70s.

139.

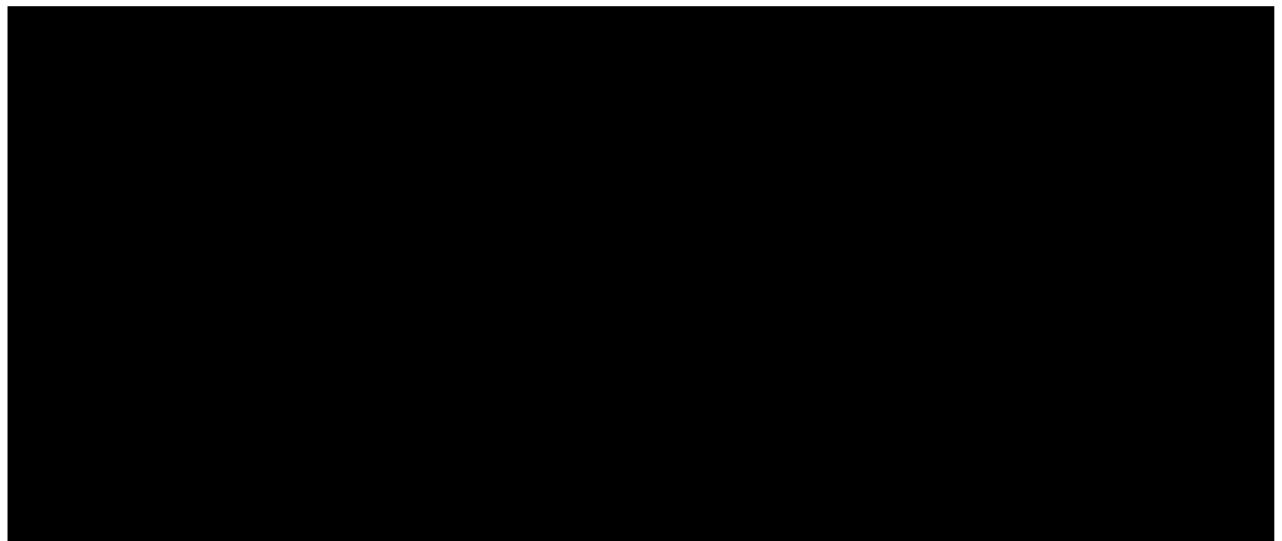


140.



141. Trial dates were set a couple of times, but then they were postponed. Eventually the trial did go ahead at Glasgow High Court. I gave evidence in the trial. I had a point of contact with the police but there was nobody that did this in the court system before, during or after the trial. I did contact the procurator fiscal to clarify some points and issues relating to the BBC programme and the appeal. I never had a point of contact in the procurator fiscal's office and no one ever explained or led me through the trial or appeal process.

142.



143. **QKZ** never went to court to give evidence so I believe they succeeded in putting her off. I understand they succeeded with a number of other people too as I have documentation that supports that. I think my sister was reluctant in a sense to get involved with it **[REDACTED]** She gave a statement to the police in early 2002 and was certainly intending going to court to give evidence.
144. In the court case against John Porteous a particular issue was raised in relation to myself and another boy. I went into another boy's bed in the house. It was consensual, it was harmless but I did it. I asked the boy, although I can't remember the actual situation. I can't remember if he was upset or if I was upset. I asked the boy and the boy said "yes". I didn't force myself into his bed and I say this because that wouldn't have been possible. In these bedrooms we had bunk beds and this boy was in a top bunk and if I was to have forced myself all the other boys would have woken up.
145. I heard on the BBC News that John Porteous was convicted and he was sentenced to eight years.
146. Lord Hardie sentenced John Porteous on 7 November 2002 to eight years imprisonment. **[REDACTED]**  
**[REDACTED]** Lord Hardie said "There could be no doubt that you presented a face of respectability. It is clear from the discerning verdict of the jury that between 1969 and 1977 you had a more sinister side to your character. You abused two boys entrusted to your care over a period of eight years on numerous occasions. Those boys were entrusted to your care because they had personal difficulties and the last thing that was expected or needed was for you to add to their difficulties by sexually abusing them. These were children who came to regard you as a father figure and it is impossible to determine what psychological damage you have caused them in later life".
147. John Porteous subsequently appealed and his conviction was upheld in the Appeal Courts. No one ever explained that an appeal process was taking place at the time until I was contacted by the media. I subsequently got in touch with the appeals unit

and spoke with CB McClory. I have provided to the Inquiry a letter I received from the appeals unit dated 7 January 2004. This letter explained that the reduction in sentence was based on a technicality; the law was no longer on the statute books. The letter shows his sentence was reduced under appeal from eight years to five years imprisonment. I thought this particular document explained quite clearly what the reduction in sentence was in layman's terms because I think the other side were putting it out publicly that he had appealed and he was innocent so he got a three year reduction. In reducing his sentence Lord Gill, one of the appeal court judges, reiterated that the crimes Porteous remained convicted of were grave offences committed when he had a serious responsibility in relation to children who were already disadvantaged.

148. What was most concerning after the trial was that John Porteous was able to shout from the dock "get them, they are all liars" and basically that is when the intimidation and campaign against us started. This intimidation involved abusive and malicious telephone calls to witnesses in this case, including myself. Witnesses were contacted by family and supporters of John Porteous. This included former residents [REDACTED] prior to and after the trial. These were efforts to persuade witnesses not to go to court, give evidence or to change their evidence. Other witnesses in my case reported being visited at home and stopped in the street, intimidated and harassed. [REDACTED] was instrumental in organising a campaign including using Quarriers properties and connections, including with BBC Scotland, to provide [REDACTED] access to the media to claim a miscarriage of justice when none existed in law. [REDACTED] provided child actors from her drama classes to portray us on the Frontline 'Secrets or Lies' programme in 2003.

149. It appears from all accounts, from documentation and the information that I have, is that Quarriers organisation provided more than just tacit support to my abuser and his family after he was charged and his conviction. I was shocked by the attitude of Phil Robinson and the aftercare worker who I met in 2004 at my request. What they both expressed was that the abuser [REDACTED] more important than the victims. They made a number of comments which I recorded at the time.

150. After that trial a number of former residents started getting in touch with me as they were or had been intimidated and harassed by family and supporters of the [REDACTED] before and after his trial. This intimidation and harassment was reported in the Wilson case too. Wilson was the brother-in-law of John Porteous and he was reported to the police. Ultimately the Former Boys and Girls Abused in Quarriers, FBGA, was set up.
151. Around that time and thereafter there were eight convictions of abusers from Quarriers; Samuel McBrearty, John Porteous, Alexander Wilson, Mary Drummond, Effie Ramsay, Ruth Wallace and William Gilmore had all been convicted. Other scheduled trials failed on technicalities or some other reasons. In 2013 another Quarriers employee was convicted in the current system.

### **Opposing John Porteous Parole**

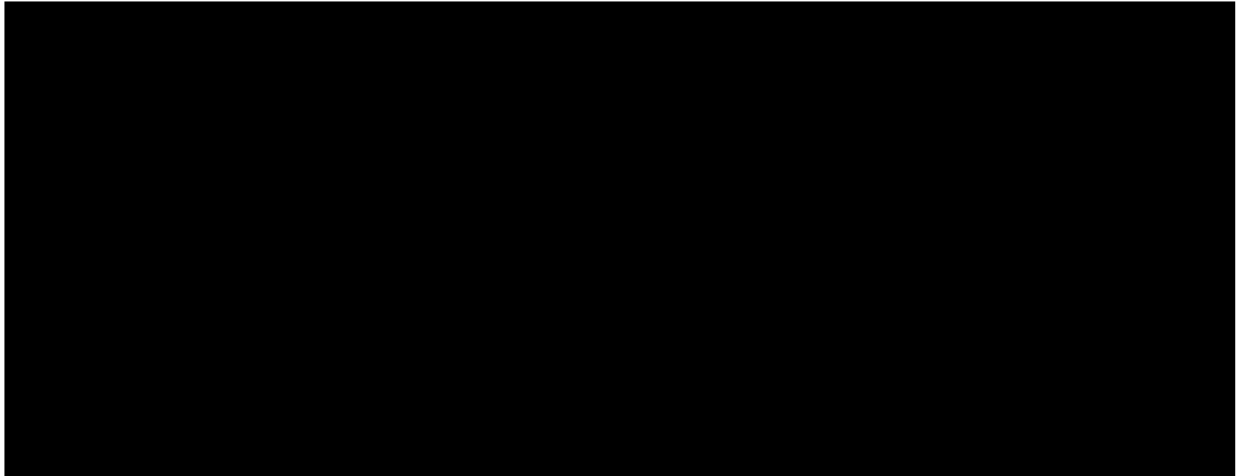
152. It was with great reluctance that I decided to write to the parole board and oppose the early release of John Porteous. I did it because I was so seriously concerned when I heard on the news that my abuser had instructed his family and supporters to 'get' the victims and it was reported he refused any programme while in prison to address his offending or paedophilia issues. I also raised the issue with the parole board that even after he was first investigated in 1982 he subsequently went on to become the Chair of a children's panel and a co-opted school governor of Kilmacolm Primary School.
153. I consider John Porteous to be a very dangerous, manipulative and devious paedophile given his offending and how he targeted, sexualised and groomed children, including me, for his own depravity, gratification and purpose.



**BBC Frontline Scotland, 'Secrets or Lies', broadcast 1 April 2003**

154. After John Porteous was convicted, BBC Frontline Scotland showed a programme called 'Secrets or Lies'. Former residents, former house parents, former directors of Quarriers and current professionals connected to Quarriers were involved in this. They all attempted to discredit myself and others who had given evidence in a court of law. They were basically saying that I had been dishonest and lied in a court of law. The letters, some of which have already been provided to the Inquiry state clearly that professionals connected to Quarriers were involved. Robinson who was the former CEO of Quarriers has always denied that involvement. There were a number of properties that were used in the filming of this programme that were owned by Quarriers. One has to ask how the protection of vulnerable adults and children can be ensured if you are giving access to your properties that are owned by third parties or rented to third parties.
155. BBC Frontline Scotland employees, the programme makers and others made unsubstantiated and false claims concerning myself and my sister on the Frontline 'Secrets or Lies' programme in 2003. I was also put in a wholly unacceptable position whereby I felt compelled to give full access to my children's file to the BBC Trust independent editorial inquiry into the programme and my complaints. This was to highlight and show that the Frontline programme makers had not researched the matters properly, accurately or thoroughly.
156. There was a large meeting which took place in the Sommerville Weir Hall in Quarriers relating to 'Secrets or Lies'. A number of Quarriers' people attended, including former directors, former employees and former residents as well as other people who lived in the village at the time.
157. I am also giving the Inquiry a copy of an article in the Sunday Herald dated 4 May 2003. This article was after I had given up my anonymity and went public about my time in care. I gave up my anonymity following the BBC Frontline programme 'Secrets or Lies', which was broadcast on 1 April 2003.

158. Mr & Mrs Dunbar, I understand, were engaged and involved in 'Secrets or Lies' as were other former employees, former residents, former directors and others. Helen Dunbar's interview in the Greenock Telegraph on 18 March 2005 said that the trial was a travesty. I have provided to the Inquiry a copy of this newspaper article. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Helen Dunbar also submitted a letter to the Press Complaints Commission complaining about the Scottish Sunday Mail because they were raising issues in relation to Quarriers. One part was upheld but everything else was not.
159. I have provided the Inquiry with a copy of the letter Helen Dunbar wrote to the Press Complaints Commission [REDACTED] I got this from the Scottish Sunday Mail. This again shows all these people are interconnected and supporting each other. I believe the nepotism and the corruption of Quarriers, and the Scottish care system, transpires from a lot of all of this. Mrs Dunbar was supportive of [REDACTED] and on one level I get that as a friend, however it is my contention and assertion simply that all of these ex-employees, and others connected to them are trying to cover up what the depth of the abuse that was going on in Quarriers while they were all employed by the organisation.
160. Meetings were organised by the Former Boys and Girls Association of former residents. These public meetings were designed in relation to myself and other victims being undermined and discredited. People who had the courage to give evidence in a court of law. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] It is my assertion and I believe that this association has been a route down the years to have access to children by former residents and to keep a control and a lid on the abuse from coming out. Individuals who were former residents in this association have been convicted of abusing children.
161. [REDACTED]



### **Civil Process**

162. It was never my intention to take a legal case against Quarriers but after the programme 'Secrets or Lies' I made that decision. What I think is disgusting and appalling on Quarriers' part is that their legal representatives arranged for me to see a Dr Janet Boakes, who, for all intents and purposes, is a false memory expert. The civil action was raised then this report was instructed. I saw her on the understanding, and this is where the trust is broken down completely, that we would resolve the issues. Instead of that, they used that opportunity to undermine and discredit my testimony including attempts to usurp the decision of the jury. Testimony that I had given in a criminal court and which has been upheld by the appeal court.

163. The civil action was found to be time barred. Quarriers and Quarriers' insurers had an option within the law to accept liability and to resolve this case as my abuser had been convicted in a criminal court. I asked Quarriers and their insurers if they would try and redress these cases. I also said it in a radio programme in 2005 that they could try and address these cases outside of the courts and that every case was not about monetary compensation. Then in 2006 Quarriers decided, and this is an organisation which has had all these people convicted within the criminal courts, to oppose the removal of time bar. Eleven years on we campaigned at parliament. I gave evidence, and handed over documents. Quarriers' legal people threatened me that if I didn't withdraw my case that they would come after me for the cost of my case. I have the documents. I submitted those documents to a parliamentary

committee. The motions they laid down were actually threatening motions and this is all happening within the justice system which is supposed to be for the victims. I have provided copies of these motions to the Inquiry.

164. I provided to the Inquiry a really distressing letter from Norwich Union to Ross Harper, who were then my solicitors, on 7 April 2003. It states "Quarriers have passed us your letter dated 25 March 2003 for attention as your insurers. Please note our interests. From the information in our possession we deny that your client was abused by John Porteous and are not prepared to consider your client's claim" and that was actually after he had been convicted.
165. I have a major criticism of Quarriers charity, it's legal representatives and it's insurers. In my view they are complicit in the further harm and damage that has been inflicted on the victims like me, by the actions of people like Janet Boakes. I don't understand why it took the Supreme Court in London to stop Janet Boakes and admonish her. Quarriers actions, insurers and legal representatives engaged the services of Dr Janet Boakes, a false memory expert, and Ray Wyre, a paedophilia expert, after the conviction of my abuser. This was simply to undermine and discredit the testimony, after the conviction of my abuser, which I had given in the criminal trial. This was another attempt to usurp the decision of the jury. Such actions, which were completely unnecessary in my view, has inflicted further damage and harm on myself which is simply unquantifiable. Legal motions by Quarriers legal representatives in the civil court processes that were designed to frighten or scare me into withdrawing my civil claim or they would come after me for costs is deeply disturbing and of serious concern. Unfortunately due to these actions by Quarriers, it's legal representatives, insurers and these individuals the processes became very adversarial and I have lost faith in the justice system.
166. Phil Robinson, who was the CEO of Quarriers, and Quarriers themselves, and their legal representatives and insurers action in the civil courts have denied and continue to deny that any abuse took place even after the criminal convictions. Phil Robinson, when he was CEO at Quarriers, the charity opposed time bar through the Scottish

Law Commission in 2006 and this was after 8 people had been convicted of criminally abusing children in their care.

167. He was also instrumental in asking me to participate in an interview on radio in December 2005 called a 'Rock and a hard place'. Unbeknown to me, Anna Magnuson was the producer of the programme at the time. I believe that programme was clearly trying to discredit and undermine me. We have the unedited full interview and I am going to submit that into the Inquiry. The person who was interviewing me was a person called Colin Adams. He was the past PR man of Quarriers.
168. I have provided to the Inquiry a copy of the Sunday Herald article dated 10 November 2002. The Sunday Herald began an investigation into what was going on in Quarriers. This article is titled '*How a leading charity let a paedophile rent a home amid Scotland's most vulnerable children*'. It was raised with Quarriers why they permitted John Porteous, who had been charged by that time with offences against children, to return to Quarriers, to continue to work either in a paid or voluntary role. In addition to that, Nicola Sturgeon who was then in opposition, said in the media that she demanded the resignation of Phil Robinson for a dereliction of duty to children in care. I understand that John Porteous returned to live in Quarriers and that accommodation was provided by Quarriers charity after his release from prison. This was highlighted by the Scottish Sunday Mail.
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169. In that same Sunday Herald article they report Phil Robinson as saying "Quarriers have now hired a social worker to counsel former residents who were abused. All staff hired after 1995 have been checked by police". However some 32 hired before that then are still unchecked and that was in 2002. Quarriers said that they undertook an internal investigation in 2002, which Quarriers submitted at stage one of this Inquiry undertaken by SIRCC in 2002. This failed to mention the 32 staff hired before 1995 were still unchecked in 2002. There was no support around that period of time. Quarriers offered support but there was no way anyone was going to go back to Quarriers for the support from where they were originally abused. That is perverse to say the least. The Quarriers management around that time had a total disregard and disdain for those who were the victims of this abuse. I tried to get

Quarriers to understand that Quarriers victims wanted support from outside the organisation.

170. Quarriers' management have made several attempts to silence me over the years because of the issues that I have raised. There are emails where I had to challenge one of their senior managers, David Williams, because I felt the language intimidating. Also Quarriers PR people were critical of me for raising issues in the media at the time.
171. I intend holding Janet Boakes to account through the Medical Council at some stage. Janet Boakes is supposed to be a professional qualified medical professional and writes up a medical report about me but does not give me access to that medical report. Her actions have inflicted further harm and damage on vulnerable adults, including me, and this was by a health professional. People are asking us why we don't trust the systems and the processes. My attempts to get the report about me have failed and there are other people in the same position as me and that is just appalling. I have provided to the Inquiry a letter dated 2 November 2006 from Simpson and Marwick Solicitors to Ross Harper stating that this report would not be provided as it was privileged in terms of the Data Protection Act.
172. Quarriers insurers Norwich Union also engaged the services of Ray Wyre, who was supposed to be a paedophilia expert, to write up a report on me in relation to my trial and how honest I had been. Quarriers engaged the services of that person and are responsible for that persons actions towards me. Quarriers cannot just relinquish responsibility for this. Someone has that report but it is held somewhere. I have never seen it. I am aware through a third party what this report contains. Ray Wyre also appeared on the BBC Frontline 'Secrets or Lies' programme.

### **Quarriers Records**

173. My records were with the police. When I applied for them Quarriers said the police had them. The police said they didn't have them. I have the correspondence that

went back and forward between me and them. I eventually did get my records, my children's file from Quarriers. I then received from Pam Barr, in February 2005, medical notes which she said she had found in another box but some of it is illegible and you can't read it. She wanted to make sure I got it. I was sent that and I have the correspondence relating to that which I have provided to the Inquiry. It indicated that the medical records weren't kept originally with the children's files.

174. One of my concerns about my Quarriers records was that ex-employees of Quarriers had been given access to our records over many years. One, in particular was an archivist who was a former director. They were not current employees of Quarriers. There was communication between myself and the BBC in relation to Joe Mortimer because there was suggestion in BBC documentation that Mortimer would be able to look at my file. I pointed out to the BBC that this was illegal as he was no longer employed. In some respects, after I pointed this out, they changed their stance that he didn't access them. The BBC subsequently just talked to him about the content of the records, but I don't believe he can legally do that either. My understanding is you cannot talk about a confidential record to anyone else even when you have left the organisation. The nature of children's files are that they are highly confidential. I raised that with David Gormley at Glasgow Social Work and there are emails in relation to this. I was concerned that Bill Dunbar also had access to my records as an ex-employee. He was recorded as an archivist but not an employee of the organisation at that point in time as he wasn't being paid.

175. I also had concerns because I had been told that the records weren't being stored securely and for many years were apparently being stored in the village grocery store run by Bill Dunbar after he was no longer an employee. I learned from Quarriers that they were out-sourcing it to a company called File Safe. I was really concerned my file and the file of my sister were going to a third party, after having been through a criminal trial, and had access to confidential information, including medical information about me out-with the organisation. Former residents, who are now adults, and able to make informed decisions should have been consulted and given our consent and permission about matters relating to our files including the storage and outsourcing of our children's files prior to it just happening. Best practice

indicates that you should consult the service users who are former residents on matters pertaining to them.

176. I was given my Quarriers file by Quarriers. In the file it says that I was given a copy of my file when I left Quarriers. That is not true. I was not given any paperwork when I left in May 1974. My sister was never given a copy of her file and I was never given a copy of my file.
177. I have an injury to my left hand. A band-saw went through my hand while I was at school. There is no record of that in my medical record at Quarriers. It happened at Linwood High School when Quarriers had a duty of care to me and should have recorded that serious injury because I nearly lost my finger. I spent some time in the Elise hospital in Quarriers .
178. Not once in my records concerning the [QDH/QDI] or [QKR/QKY] cottages from Quarriers does it ever say that I had run away. In [REDACTED] records there is a note about the police being notified that [REDACTED] had absconded while in the [QKR/QKY] cottage and had been away for three weeks.
179. There is information in documentation that was provided by Glasgow social work originally to Quarriers that is missing from my children's file. There are also no medical records apparently held by Quarriers relating to my sister. Under the Data Protection Act I requested Quarriers to put a note on my file and it was basically a note of the conviction of John Porteous and I sent them a copy of the conviction of John Porteous. I asked for that to be put on my children's record as I was entitled to under the Data Protection Act. Quarriers refused.
180. After my sister died I came across correspondence with Quarriers where she had applied for her records. I have provided this correspondence to the Inquiry. They wanted to know who she was, what her position was, could she give photo ID and stuff like that. I understand the need to confirm who she was but it just seemed they didn't have any real understanding, despite me calling Quarriers at some point to inform them, that my sister had terminal cancer and possibly couldn't go and get



certain pieces of information. My sister never got her file. I then got my remaining siblings authorisation. I was the executor of [redacted] estate and I had a copy of the death certificate. I sent it to Quarriers along with the letter from my sister [redacted] and I was given [redacted] file. There are no medical records in [redacted] file.

181. I had also been asked by [redacted] a former resident who is now deceased, to help get her records. Quarriers were being resistant to providing them. FBGA's legal team have all the paperwork for this. Despite the fact I had her full permission, Quarriers were not providing records at that time to people within the law and within the time scale of the law and I want to put that on record.

### Quarriers notes

182. In our files there are records from every house. The [redacted] are quite comprehensive and it looks like they might have written something up about me every month. We were never involved in, or had any input into these records. One of the things I would like to point out about the records is there is no mention of any of the punishments in the [redacted] house but there is a reference about the removal of privileges. I have yet to understand what these privileges were even to this day. The records are not a wholly accurate reflection of my time in care in the Quarriers homes.

183. With the [redacted] I don't remember them telling me what they were going to write about me or if my behaviour had been bad and any privileges were being withdrawn. There is no reference to any punishments administered by them and why. It is the same with my sister's file there in respect that there are notes from the houses she was in, including the [redacted]. The [redacted] file isn't as comprehensive as the [redacted] or the [redacted] file. None of these house parents have recorded if my sister or I were chastised and what form that took including if she or I weren't allowed out because of a misdemeanour. There is nothing, apart from in the [redacted] where Mortimer is involved and I lost privileges. This clearly shows that senior

Quarriers management was involved in the running of the cottages and should have been more involved.

184. The records held by Quarriers in relation to myself and my sister [redacted] are not wholly accurate and are incomplete relating to our time in the care of the various cottage parents.
185. The medical records I received from Quarriers in 2005 are scant. They are not reflective of the medical records I received recently from my GP which include medical records during my time at Quarriers.

### **Glasgow Social Work / Corporation records**

186. Trying to get my records from Glasgow social work department was a nightmare. [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted] I have provided to the Inquiry a number of letters between myself and Glasgow social work department. These letters start in 2003 from Martin McCready and they go on for a number of years. [redacted]
- [redacted]

### **Other roles of John Porteous**

187. John Porteous has had a number of roles within Quarriers organisation, Quarriers village and externally. Some of these roles he held even after he was investigated by the police in 1982. The majority of roles undertaken by John Porteous are associated with children. I consider John Porteous to be dangerous, manipulative, and devious. It appears to me he took control of either Mortimer or Dunbar because he ended up Quarriers village council chair. Dunbar and Mortimer are also on that village council as were other former residents. He also became a school governor after he was first investigated in 1982. I have previously provided to the Inquiry letters and information which support that. He was also the chair of the Former Boys and Girls Association at one point. He was also a youth referee. He also worked in a former resident's

shop that had a school clothing section and this included when he was under investigation and had been charged.

188. The Greenock Telegraph ran an investigation and actually gave me some papers relating to government appointees at that time. I have these and I think FBGA's legal team have these. How was it possible that he was able to be a co-opted school governor? I believe that he was able to get into some of these positions because he had key friends and facilitators, who helped him. Porteous would have been required to submit references or referees to gain such important appointments in the care and education systems. He was only ever employed by Quarriers in the care system.
189. It is very important that people really understand how these paedophiles work and how they get into systems and sometimes they embed themselves and do what they are able to do in complete secrecy or with the support of others. No-one is asking any questions concerning him or his behaviour because he hides in plain sight or had manipulated and controlled others who facilitated his access to children. Sometimes they don't do things for a long time. It appears Porteous did that. He also set up a pets corner in Carsemeadow [REDACTED]
190. I have a real major concern about a children's club that was set up when I was in Quarriers. It was called the 'Fuzzy Wuzzy' club. This club was run by three male adults, John Porteous, Joe Mortimer and William Dunbar. FBGA have a print-out from an 1982 annual report. This was the year that John Porteous was first investigated by the police and all three are there giving out Christmas presents to the children. I am not aware of any other female house parents involved in that club. I find it odd that three men would be running a children's club.
191. FBGA have a number of letters and we have provided some of these letters to the Inquiry which myself and my sister received from [REDACTED]. Some of these letters came in to my possession after my sister died. These letters indicate to us that John Porteous was working in some capacity for Quarriers after he had been charged. In addition, one of the other letters reveals that John Porteous was part of a children's school group from Kilmacolm School and that he took them down to a

youth place in Rotherhithe in London and he was doing this after he had been charged. I was the executor of my sister's will and I came across some letters after my sister's death. I have provided to the Inquiry a letter from [REDACTED] dated 15 September 2002. I will be happy to provide the Inquiry with all these letters my sister and I received from [REDACTED]

192. I have also provided a letter to the Inquiry addressed to [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] gave me this letter around 2004. This letter is from [REDACTED] who is [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] may have given evidence in the trial of John Porteous. This letter which implies the police provided her with an incentive to give evidence and also that [REDACTED] had told lies in court.

### **Lessons to be learned**

193. In relation to my sister [REDACTED] QKZ and myself, Quarriers failed in its duty of care to me and my sister. What I don't understand to this day, is why it took us all those years of campaigning for a proper public inquiry into that past abuse. Nine people have been convicted to-date, so what I am saying is that the regulatory systems have failed. They failed to respond when this abuse became public. Quarriers are a charity and the question has to be asked why the Scottish Charities Commission has never ordered an inquiry into Quarriers or the Inverclyde local authority given that I raised it with them.
194. In my opinion Quarriers should lose their charity status for the original abuse that has happened and the number of convictions, and also for the way they have dealt with the victims of these crimes, the actions of the Quarriers organisation and it's legal representatives in the civil process which inflicted further real harm and damage on vulnerable adults. This also includes the non-action of the Quarriers charity to provide reasonable and equitable remedies to the victims.
195. The opposing of time-bar in 2006 by Quarriers, despite having the most ex-employees of any care organisation in the UK convicted of abusing children in its

care, and the way they treated us in care and afterwards demonstrates that they don't know the meaning of the word care or charity. They should have been sanctioned at the very least by the Scottish Charities Commission. This is an example of another establishment system that has failed us.

196. They removed me from the [QDH/QDI] house following the incident where I chased one of them with a potato peeler. This punished me and my sister, but actually the psychologist's report is very clear about what my sister is saying to the psychologist. The psychologist report says we were both treated quite harshly by these cottage parents. These people were not treating us properly or as vulnerable children which we were. If my sisters behaviour was supposedly unmanageable why was nothing ever done to modify that behaviour.
197. When I moved to the [QDH/QDI] house they obviously decided it was suitable for me to be with my sister. I was taken away from her after the potato peeler incident then nine months later they decide to put me back with her at the [QKR/QKY] house. That reflects to me that the issue wasn't me, the issue was the [QDH/QDI]. I understand that the [QDH/QDI] left Quarriers shortly afterwards following this psychologist's report. If it had failed once with my sister, and I was the cause, why would they try it again? It seems odd to me.
198. I don't want any child, family, victim or survivor to experience what I have experienced. I think very few people would have survived what I have come through. There are some survivors who are resilient and some who are more vulnerable. What I want this Inquiry to achieve is for there to be a duty of candour created in law. If people see abuse or see others committing abuse then by law, it has to be reported. I want this Inquiry to succeed and I would like this Inquiry to look at the past and how it has affected the present and ensure that the current organisation is fit for purpose.
199. I have met Alice Harper from Quarriers on occasions and she is the only person that I am engaged with in Quarriers in a meaningful, respectful way and I really appreciate that. The only other person was Kevin Scullion, who was a director of

services around 2003. He was supportive of me and genuinely wanted to help victims. He left quite suddenly. I am under no illusions about the cover-up and the avoidance of taking responsibility by the Quarriers organisation, especially when Phil Robinson was CEO. I hope through this Inquiry Quarriers will now accept and take full responsibility and take immediate steps to address the harms and the wrongs that have been inflicted on the Quarriers' victims while in care and afterwards.

200. I have met a number of people while engaging in these issues who have been very supportive of the victims-survivors including Scottish Government civil servants such as Maureen Bruce, Jess McPherson and others. In the early days there were others who were simply rude and condescending. They made disparaging comments to me too. This included saying that we would never get a judicial public Inquiry and that we were wasting our time. That was Rachel Edgar and Shirley Laing.
201. The Inquiry needs to think about making recommendations about the storage and archiving of confidential children's files, including medical information or files by Quarriers and its outsourcing to third parties. Perhaps it would be an idea to have a group of former residents who could be properly consulted on things like that. Confidentiality is a major concern. I know that the NHS does not outsource confidential records so neither should this charity, because some of the records are highly confidential and also contain medical records.

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### **Other information**

202. Bill Dunbar, who was a former director of Quarriers, and Mrs Dunbar, were part of a group of people who were engaging with Frontline Scotland to discredit and undermine me and the victims publicly. I submitted a full independent report to the BBC. I raised issues with my MP Nick Raynsford and enlisted the support of Mike Jempson of Media Wise and others to help me address the issues with the BBC. I found out what was going with 'Secrets or Lies' through various channels.

203. In my view Phil Robinson, the former CEO, and others have been involved in a cover up and attempted to minimize the fallout including undermining and trying to discredit the victims in the civil courts. This also includes permitting ex-employees to work voluntarily for the organisation including some who were still under police investigation. The letters and documentation in my possession indicate and support this. Phil Robinson was the CEO for a long time and he also anticipated that serious issues would be raised including those relating to children migrated from Quarriers. Robinson took steps to ensure that the public face of Quarriers was protected and the organisation and charity has avoided their responsibilities over and above their duty of care to vulnerable adults who were abused in the past organisation and those migrated. Quarriers has a corporate responsibility to all former residents.
204. Phil Robinson should be called by this Inquiry to address all the matters publically pertaining to his time as Quarriers CEO and address fully the actions by the charity. What deeply concerns me is that he is now teaching the social workers of tomorrow at Strathclyde University.
205. The former chief inspector Mr Angus Skinner who gave testimony to the Inquiry is a former director of Quarriers. He chastised me because I had the guts to actually raise issues about Quarriers. In my view he failed in his systemic duty of responsibility. All these people are all interlinked. They are connected and when the time comes they ring a bell and these people come out and say "oh yes, this didn't happen, we support this, we support that and the organisation is well run". If you go back and look where some of these connections are, you will see that some of them are working in the care system now. Some of them are former residents. [REDACTED]
206. Margaret Orr, [REDACTED] was a social worker for Quarriers. She went on to marry Joe Nicholson's son. Joe Nicholson was convicted of abuse and I am highlighting this to give you an illustration of some of the links between some of these individuals. The nepotism of Quarriers of the past has even corrupted the current care system.

207. Mr and Mrs [QKR/QKY] previously ran cottage number [REDACTED]. In cottage [REDACTED] a boy named [REDACTED] ran away from Quarriers. At the time there was a scandal because this boy never returned to Quarriers and everybody in the village was talking about it. I don't know what happened but if I reflect on my own situation, one has to look into why this particular boy ran away and never came back to Quarriers.

208. When I was with the [QKR/QKY] I was sent to a crusaders group in Greenock. I was sent on other trips too outside Quarriers. There were other people there that had nothing to do with Quarriers. There was no thought about how I was being cared for when I was there, or what was going on. I don't think Quarriers did any checks when we were sent on these third party individual when we were sent on these outings. There were other people who may have been helping with the outings but they were certainly not Quarriers staff. At some of these outings, no Quarriers staff were present.

209.



### **Impact**

210. I am not sure who in social services made the decision to take [REDACTED] children [REDACTED] and place them in an inner city environment in Glasgow and expect that family to survive. My mother had, I presume, the right to have her children but clearly, from the social work reports in the file, my mother clearly was incapable of



looking after us and was mentally unfit. We were already very vulnerable and were in the Scottish care system, and had been for most of our lives. Why would these decisions have been made, to make us more vulnerable? As far as I am concerned the social care system of Scotland has failed me and my family. It has systemically failed us all.

211. We were [REDACTED] siblings and we were together for a short period as a family unit [REDACTED] [REDACTED] despite the deprivation and neglect. Those sibling relationships were very important [REDACTED] [REDACTED] It is especially important because we were so young. Out of a family of [REDACTED] there are only two of us left, [REDACTED] and myself. The others, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] QKZ [REDACTED] have all died young, [REDACTED] Their life expectancy was reduced because of the harm inflicted and they suffered. The Scottish [REDACTED] system cannot avoid those responsibilities and has clearly failed us as a family.

212. [REDACTED]

213. One of the things that I have done to avoid thinking about my past life is I became a workaholic and it helped me. In the beginning I couldn't settle in a permanent job and maintain that job. I couldn't form meaningful relationships with people. I had serious issues with people in authority, by that I mean I didn't trust them.

214. I have a major issue with trust but I think it has been reinforced because of what has happened and what actions Quarriers, its legal representatives and insurers did in the civil trial. They undermined and, tried to discredit my testimony by employing a false memory expert Dr Janet Boakes, and also engaging the services of Ray Wyre.

215. [REDACTED] Secondary Institutions - to be published later [REDACTED]

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

216. I saw all of what happened to me at Quarriers as normal until years later as an adult I came to the realisation that it was wrong. The impact on me however is lifelong. It will never go away. I suffered extreme mental damage through the treatment in Quarriers and thereafter by its actions and the actions of its legal representatives and insurers. They have simply re-abused me again by their actions. There is a direct link between how I was treated in Quarriers and my health today. On a human level it has been difficult for me. In my early years I struggled to hold down a job because of the abuse. I struggled to form meaningful relationships with people.
217. I have no trust in authority however I look positively on life and I look forward and never look back. I have seen how someone being bitter damages that individual. I was a workaholic to probably avoid even confronting the issues and I disassociated from the issues. I had other issues in maintaining relationships with potential partners. I couldn't maintain meaningful relationships in that sense in the early days after leaving Quarriers. When I first left Quarriers I know that I always tried to please people. I always thought if I didn't I would be criticised or punished for it. That stemmed from my time in Quarriers.
218. Some-time after I left Quarriers I came to the realisation what had happened to me in Quarriers was wrong. I went on and established, to all intent and purposes, a stable life and had a good quality of life. There have been periods in my life where I have had depression and suicidal ideation thoughts. I have tried to disassociate myself from the whole thing and blank it all out but it never goes away. When something

happens it comes back to me. The memories are clear, and are sharp now that I have been able to talk them through with various counsellors. That is what happened when I got the call from [REDACTED] in 2002. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Some things I simply cannot recall and have stated that even when cross examined in the criminal trial.

219. Because I had received this phone call I was like a stressed animal with heightened stimuli, especially to phone calls. I gave up contact with my friends and I withdrew into myself. I didn't go into my office. I subsequently had a period when I had a complete mental breakdown in around 2003/2005.
220. I can tell you that in my darkest moments I had thoughts on going back to Quarriers and getting John Porteous, tying him up, putting him in the church and burning the church to the ground. I felt real anger and it happened around the time my sister died. I shared this with my psychologist. I had anger and I don't live my life with anger. I am just not that type of person. I want to see the good in people. I enjoy the nice things in life. I try and do the nice things in life. I never felt such rage or anger ever in my life. I never acted on these thoughts.
221. It can't be assumed that just because I have had certain resilience that there has been no damage or harm inflicted. Since the trial and conviction of my abuser Quarriers have continually denied I was abused ; they enlisted individuals such as Ray Wyre and Janet Boakes: and the BBC programme 'Secrets or Lies' They attempted to undermine and discredit the testimony I gave in a criminal court of law after the conviction of my abuser. I believe they have actually re-abused me and inflicted further harm and damage to me.
222. What happened, and the impact of all of that, was they tried to destroy the relationship and the close bond that I had with my sister. That relationship did become fractured. Trust is very important. I have friends and they are friends that I have had probably for 30 odd years. The people I trust, I know well. I decided when I was coming into the Inquiry that I wouldn't talk about my private life because my private life is just that.

### **Treatment / support**

223. In 1984 I first saw a Dr Stoll, a psychologist , following a referral from my GP. During and after my breakdown in 2003 to 2005 I was under my GP and a psychologist. I was prescribed medication for anxiety and other various medication for depression and was referred to a psychologist for a period of about eighteen months. I had suicidal ideation on many occasions. That was the first time I had ever really opened up about my family history and my time in care. Through her I came to the realisation that what happened to me was seriously wrong and shouldn't have happened. In my early days the psychologist referred to me as being reactive.
224. With my psychologist's support between 2003 and 2005 I started on a road to recovery. I didn't think it would take so long but I wasn't ready to talk, I wasn't ready to open myself up because I had shut it down so much that I didn't trust anybody that I could share stuff with. My work has always been my saviour in a sense so I managed to get stronger and start the recovery.
225. I have never had any support in any previous process that I have engaged in. The only meaningful support in any process I have ever had is from this Inquiry. That lack of previous support could well be part of the reason I had a breakdown as there was no real services in the early years. I did speak at one point to Frank Docherty and we shared similar experiences. I have recently engaged with the services of my counsellor.
226. I have provided to the Inquiry a confidential psychiatric report compiled in February 2018 by a Dr Shanahan, consultant psychiatrist. Some parts of the report have been redacted. My serious concern is in the past processes I have heard professionals say we did this to avoid re-traumatisation. These professionals have never had full access to the victim's medical reports so how could they even know what health issues or episodes we have had to deal and cope with in the first instance. Only those victims-survivors dealing and coping with such serious health issues and episodes really know and their medical professionals understand what they have experienced and suffered.

227. I have a very supportive partner and probably couldn't have got through everything without their support. Our relationship has been affected and impacted by everything that has gone on. My work, the NHS, have also been very supportive of the survivor work that I do.

### **Reason for coming forward to Inquiry**

228. I came forward to tell the truth about my time in Quarriers and also about the time my sister spent in Quarriers. I have always recognised the good house parents, the organisation and the decency and the ethos that it was set up in. No amount of money will repair the damage done to me, my family and my siblings. The damage is unquantifiable. My sister and I had the courage to report being abused [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in the Scottish care system and that is where, not just for me but for thousands [REDACTED] there has been systemic failures of the system.

229. I have heard disingenuous comments in the past that we, the victims of such abuse are only doing it for money and other such disparaging comments designed. Yet again, this is to try and undermine and discredit the victims, including from my abuser and his family, in the media. The law allows for reparation and a remedy and that is why I and others spent years campaigning for time-bar to be removed. It is the victims right to decide what is right for them, no one else.

230. I have met with other Quarriers CEOs. I met Paul Moore when FBGA were considering the restorative justice process. Paul Moore made a throw-away line which called into question my honesty. He said "I see in your book you said you went diving. How could you go diving when you had perforated ear drums?" I have the photographs showing me diving. I didn't know I had perforated ear drums at the time. These are the types of comments which question my honesty and my integrity. My motives for coming forward are clear. It is about the truth and it is about what happened to me [REDACTED]. A researcher who was interviewing me many years

ago also subtly questioned my honesty and integrity when I informed her that I had reported the intimidation to the police.

231. 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.....  .....

Dated..... *23rd May 2018* .....