

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

FBT

Support person present: Yes, [REDACTED] (wife)

1. My name is [REDACTED] FBT. My date of birth is [REDACTED]. My contact details are known to the inquiry.

### Background

2. I have two older sisters called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and two younger half-brothers called [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I am still in contact with [REDACTED] one of my half-brothers, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] have passed away. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

### Life before being placed into care

3. I don't have much of a memory of my life before I went into care. My father was killed when I was three. I don't remember him. I think my mother got a lot of money when my father was killed. She was supposed to have got £100 for us each until we were the age of twenty one. I never saw any of that. I think she was very frivolous with the money.
4. [REDACTED] I used to run about on the tram cars. When I was asked for my ticket by the conductor I used to give my mother's name and address. I used to say that

she was a widow. They used to come and chap her door asking for the money. I've been led to believe that we were a bit of a handful. I think we were just normal boys.

5. It was [redacted] mother that put [redacted] into care. [redacted]  
[redacted] Later on my half-brother [redacted] was also placed into care. He went to [redacted]. I found that out later on in life. My other siblings didn't get placed into care. I don't know the reason why we were put in care. I think my mother's excuse was that she couldn't care for us. The only thing I can think of is that we were an embarrassment to our mother.

### **Working Boys' Hostel, Overbridge, Glasgow**

6. I don't remember much about my time in Overbridge. I remember the place I went. They shaved all the hair off my head. They gave [redacted] a bath. [redacted] had never seen a bath up until that point in time. They then took [redacted] on a bus down to Quarriers. I don't know why they put [redacted] in Quarriers.

### **Quarriers Village, Inverclyde**

7. [redacted] [redacted] I [redacted] placed into care at the age of seven. It broke my heart. I did a lot of crying. I wanted to be with my father. I was constantly depressed during my time in Quarriers. I just wanted to die. Before I went into care I was a very 'happy go-lucky' normal boy. They beat me into submission. It's destroyed my whole life.
8. I think that I have blockages in my memory. I've put a lot of things out of my mind because of what happened. I've probably shut myself down on a lot of the things that went on. [redacted]

*Cottage 40*

9. When [REDACTED] went to Quarriers, they put [REDACTED] in cottage 40. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] I think there were about seventeen children in the cottage but I can't really remember. The cottage parents, at that time, were the Turnbells. They were quite nice. They looked after us really well. The Turnbells left, and were replaced by the QAF/QAG. I think the cottage father's full name was QAF. I can't remember his wife's name. I didn't have much contact with his wife. The QAF/QAG had a daughter and a cocker spaniel. It's only the QAF/QAG that I have bad memories about. They were cruel. I'm not quite sure how long I was with the QAF/QAG. It might have been four or five years.

*Cottage 19*

10. During a time when I was in hospital, the QAF/QAG left. I don't know why the QAF/QAG left. After leaving hospital, I left cottage 40 and went to cottage 19. I can't remember exactly when I went into cottage 19. The cottage mother was QAJ. She had worked at the hospital when I was in there. QAJ was good to us. Cottage 19 was a lot more relaxed. There were no punishments or anything like that. I think it was when I went to cottage 19 that I stopped wetting the bed. We were allowed to talk. There were no restrictions at all. You led a normal life.

**Routine***Morning routine, sleeping arrangements and washing*

11. I think we got up about seven o'clock. We would then polish the stairs. We then had our breakfast and got ready for school. We slept in dormitories. I can't remember how many were in the dormitory. We got a bath on a Sunday night. I think that we also had baths on other nights but the Sunday night baths stick in my mind.

*Food*

12. On the positive side we were fed and watered. The food was ok.

*Clothes*

13. They gave us clothes. We were given new clothes as and when we needed them. We were warm enough. We got clean underwear on a Monday morning.

*Pocket money*

14. We weren't allowed money until the age of fifteen. We never knew about money until we left the home. There was no pocket money. I'm not sure how I managed with money when I came out of care. All you used to get was a bag of sweets once a week. Everything was provided for you. [REDACTED] still needs everything done for him. He couldn't manage in the real world. Between myself and my wife we've sorted things out for life. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

*Chores*

15. I remember doing chores in cottage 40. One of the jobs you did in the mornings was polishing the stairs. You did that all the way up and down on your hands and knees. You cleaned all the boots and shoes for everybody in the cottage. You also peeled potatoes in the cold water. There was all sorts of jobs in the cottage. It was part and parcel of living together. You had to keep the house clean. You were always responsible for keeping the place clean. There must have been other chores but I just don't remember. I don't remember doing chores in cottage 19.

*School*

16. The school I went to was within Quarriers. As far as I'm concerned I was very intelligent at school. I never got noticed though. I don't think we got any real education at all. I was always good at English.

*Religious instruction*

17. We went to church three times a week. We went on a Sunday morning, Sunday night and a Wednesday night.

*Activities*

18. We did get time off to play with the other children. That was during the daytime or when we weren't at school.
19. There was a gardener at Quarriers by the name of Willie Buchanan. He took me under his wing. He used to teach me all sorts of things about gardening. He was really nice. He came from a family in Bridge of Weir. The gardening was an escape for me. I think I only worked with Willie Buchanan during my time in cottage 40.

*Holidays and trips*

20. We did have two outings whilst we were in Quarriers. One was to the beach at Troon and the other was to the circus at Kelvin Hall.
21. There was one man who came up from London. He was a nice old gentleman. I never found out what his name was. He would take two kids at a time out for the day. I remember going down to Wemyss Bay and going on the paddle steamer. He bought us cakes.

*Birthdays and Christmas*

22. They were very good with Christmas in the home. They had a big do. You would ask for a present and you would get it on Christmas day. If you were given a toy, you were allowed to keep that. They were good from that point of view. The only birthday I remember was at the age of fifteen. QAJ gave some Brylcream. Apart from that I can't remember anything else.

*Visits*

23. My mother used to come to visit [REDACTED] once a month. She walked over the fields to come to visit [REDACTED]. My mother wasn't allowed to take [REDACTED] out of Quarriers when she visited. She would visit [REDACTED] at the cottage. She took [REDACTED] out for walks in the grounds of Quarriers. She used to bring [REDACTED] comics and things. I didn't have contact with my [REDACTED] siblings. They stayed with my mother.
24. There were a couple of kind ladies who visited one day. They gave [REDACTED] QFM and I a box of chocolates. We thought the chocolates were all for us and we ate them. They were supposed to be shared amongst the cottage. We didn't realise that until afterwards.

*Inspections*

25. I don't remember seeing inspectors or there being inspections. I think it was like a closed shop. Nobody came in. There was nobody who came in from the outside to ask us how we were getting on. There were visitors from the charity who came to Quarriers but they never spoke to us. They were shown about and left with the impression that it was a wonderful place for the children. Nobody ever spoke to us or asked us our opinion. You didn't have an opinion anyway. You were told what your opinion was.

*Medical care*

26. You wouldn't be sent to a nurse in Quarriers. Normally everything was handled in the cottage. The only time that you went to hospital was when you were really ill. I was once taken into Quarriers' own hospital. That was during my time in cottage 40. I think I had stomach trouble. I say that because I remember having indigestion tablets. I know I wasn't very well. In my own mind I think I was black and blue when I was taken into hospital. I think, when I was examined, the bruises were picked up on. I do wonder whether that was what resulted in the [REDACTED] QAF/QA leaving. I don't remember how long I was in hospital. I was the only person in the hospital at the time. I don't think the hospital was used all that much for inpatients. The lady at the

hospital was called [redacted] QAJ . She was nice. She later became my house mother in cottage 19. I think I was moved cottages because the [redacted] QAF/Q were told to leave. I may have been moved to cottage 19 because I had formed a relationship with [redacted] QAJ and she was aware of what was going on with the [redacted] QAF/QA I felt [redacted] QAJ took a particular interest in me. I don't know when [redacted] QAJ became a cottage mother. There may have been a gap after I left the hospital but I don't know.

27. I don't know exactly what it was that sent me to hospital. I want to get access to my records to find out because it may be something that affects me now. Quarriers won't let me get my full records though.

### **Abuse**

28. All the abuse I suffered happened in cottage 40 with the [redacted] QAF/QAG There was no abuse happened in cottage 19. None at all.

### *The rules and discipline*

29. Your life was laid out for you in terms of what you were going to do in Quarriers. You were told "you will do this" and "you will do that." You followed the rules as a matter of course because everything was laid out for you. You never questioned anything. I was like my grandson is now. I used to ask questions all the time. They beat that out of me though.

### *Bed wetting and associated abuse by Mr [redacted] QAF*

30. [redacted] QFM and I both used to wet the bed. I used to wet the bed every day. I wet my bed throughout my whole time in cottage 40. You just accepted the beatings you were going to get. You just put your hands out. Mr [redacted] QAF used to hit you with the strap. It started off with two hits on both the hands but sometimes it went up to six or eight times on each hand. I don't recollect being strapped for anything else other

than for bed wetting. I don't remember anyone else other than Mr QAF hitting us with the strap.

31. Mr QAF used to get you up at night and put you in a cold bath. They did that to try and deter you from wetting the bed. It wasn't after I had wet the bed or anything. It was just when I was asleep. They got me up at about ten o'clock. We would have gone to bed at about six o'clock. They did that even in the middle of winter. You would be sitting there in a freezing cold bath.

*Other abuse by Mr QAF*

32. Mr QAF used to, when speaking refer to my mother as 'that blonde bombshell'. He tried to turn against mother. He had a lack of respect for people. I don't think he knew how to relate to people. He was in a position of authority and he used that to his advantage.
33. If you wanted to do something he would stop you from doing it. He would beat you up. He used to make you sit in silence for hours. You weren't allowed to speak. That went for all the children in the cottage. I don't think it was like that every day but that did happen at certain times.

*Being left out in the cold*

34. I remember going out in the cold one year. It was snowing. We were freezing cold. They wouldn't let us back in. We had been skipping around in the playground and they wouldn't let us back into the house. Everybody was left outside. I don't know why they kept us out.

*Running away*

35. I remember running away. He ran all the way to Glasgow in his bare feet. mother took him to the police station on Plantation Street. The police took him back to Quarriers. The staff at Quarriers beat him pretty bad for that. told me about that. I didn't see it myself.



*Medical experimentation*

36. Dr QBL visited us during the time when the QAF/Q were the cottage parents. He wasn't from Quarriers. Dr QBL had invented this rubber mat which had wires running through it. They said that the mat was battery operated but I'm convinced that it was plugged into the mains. Alarms used to go off if you peed on the mat. I remember throwing boots at the machine because the alarm was going off. The mat would burn your backside. QFM was the only one in the cottage that had that done to him. I think they practiced with the mat on QFM to get the voltage right. They tried these mats out on QFM because they wanted to sell the mats later on. They used QFM because there would be no repercussions.
37. I got injections because I had scabs on my arms. I think they were experimenting on me. It's the only reason I can think of. I remember these doctors came to Quarriers from Edinburgh to do this. It was outside people. They came every week to measure the size of the scabs with a ruler. They gave me other things and checked me on each arm. I think it was something to do with TB. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] I don't remember this happening to anyone else at Quarriers.

*Abuse whilst at Quarriers' school*

38. I remember being battered by a teacher because I couldn't read something. He physically hit me on the face. My nose was all bloody. That taught me to read properly. I think the teacher must have been frustrated with me. Later on the teacher took me out for the day to apologise.
39. There was a PE teacher called Mr QBC He was a sadist. He played for [REDACTED] at one time. He used to hit you with a strap. He loved punching people. He had a reputation.

40. I don't think, to be fair, there was much punishment in general given to us at school. I actually think the teachers were very good. I don't remember anybody else physically punishing me other than the teacher that gave me a bloody nose and Mr **QBC** hitting me.

### **Reporting of abuse**

#### *During my time in Quarriers*

41. **█** told my mother about the beatings. The **█** at Quarriers was called **QBK**. I think my mother went to **QBK** and told him what was happening **█**. Nothing was ever done. There was nobody else I could have spoken to about what was going on. You had no contact with anyone from the outside world.

#### *After leaving Quarriers*

42. I have never reported what happened to me at Quarriers to the police. I have talked about things with **QFM**. Many years ago I typed out all the things that happened to me for **QFM**. I felt strongly about things at that time. We were going to sue Quarriers. He took my letter to his solicitor. We were told by the solicitor that Quarriers had lost all our papers. I did participate in 'Time to Be Heard.' I had an interview with them.

### **Leaving Quarriers**

43. Quarriers did talk about me getting a job in a shoe shop. I never heard anything more about that though. **█** had no preparation for leaving care in Quarriers. They say they gave **█** money but it wasn't much. They washed their hands of **█** as soon as they sent **█** to the farm. Nobody at Quarriers spoke to **█** or kept in contact with **█** when **█** went to the farm.

**Craig Farm,** [REDACTED]

44. [REDACTED] I [REDACTED] sent to Craig Farm when [REDACTED] fifteen. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I was getting injections for something. Quarriers wouldn't let me go until that was finished. [REDACTED] stayed in a barn at the farm. [REDACTED] at the farm that long. It was probably weeks or months [REDACTED] there rather than days or years.
45. When [REDACTED] to the farm it was basically slave labour. [REDACTED] went out in the fields hoeing. [REDACTED] did the milk. [REDACTED] would empty the churns. I remember using the scythe. I had been taught a lot of the gardening things already by Willie Buchanan whilst I was at Quarriers. [REDACTED] did all the sorts of things that they did on the farm. The farmer didn't like [REDACTED] and I talking to each other.

**Life after care**

46. [REDACTED] stayed with [REDACTED] mother for a short period of time. My mother went to the children's court in Glasgow to try and put [REDACTED] back into another home. I remember the sheriff saying "the boy [REDACTED] done nothing wrong, you can't carry on putting [REDACTED] away all of the time." [REDACTED] then placed under the supervision of an aunt in Paisley. I helped my uncle for a while. He was a bobbin stick man. [REDACTED] would have been about sixteen at that time.
47. [REDACTED] ended up on the streets in Glasgow. I know I stayed in a YMCA in Govan for a while. I know I went to Blackpool at one point and was living on the beach. I was trying to get a job. I can't remember what happened after that. I remember being in the Royal Marine reserves for five years, I joined the Royal Marines after that. I was in the Royal Marines for seven years.

*The Royal Marines*

48. Up until the time when my wife went into hospital in Plymouth, my book in the marines shows 'excellent, excellent, excellent'. [REDACTED] went into labour with our son

on a weekend before I was due to return to a course in Portsmouth. They made me leave [REDACTED] in the hospital in Plymouth. I had asked for time off but they told me to get back to the course in Portsmouth. The following weekend I asked again for leave to see [REDACTED] and my son in Plymouth. They took me off the course and put me on guard duty. They wouldn't allow me any time off. In the end I didn't get to see my son until ten days after he was born. The whole incident was my undoing. I suddenly became unsuitable.

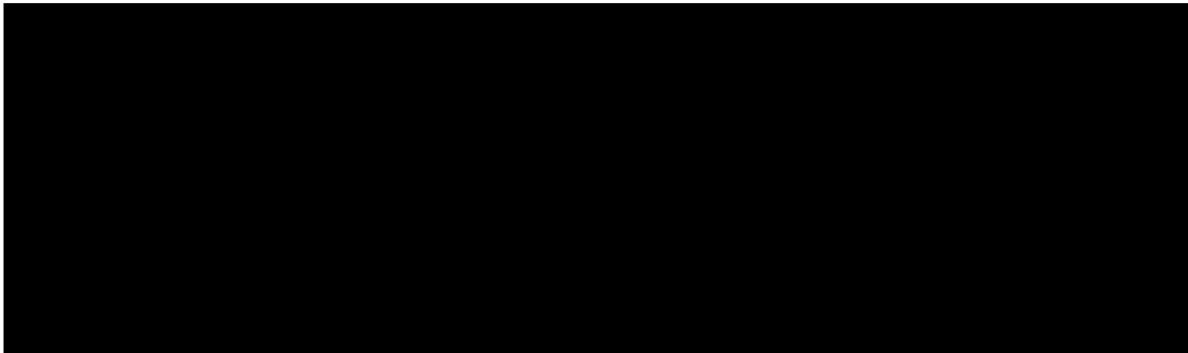
49. Later on my half-brother [REDACTED] was involved in a car crash in Glasgow. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I went to visit him. When I came back they asked where I had been. They told me I should have been on duty. Later on again I went to visit [REDACTED] again. They sent a Land Rover that time to pick me up for standby duty. I didn't get to see my half-brother [REDACTED] that time.
50. In 1974 I fell whilst abseiling. Initially I went to see the unit naval doctor a naval doctor in Arbroath. He was called Rick Jolly.. He sent me to see a naval psychiatrist called Lieutenant Commander Scott Brown for a psychiatric assessment. They said that the assessment was needed because I was scared of heights. That was done at the Docklands at HMS Cochrane in Rosyth. He said that I had been institutionalised and that I should go into a military hospital in Netley for some rest. He told me that there were no strings attached to my time in the hospital and that I could come and go as I liked. When I went to Netley I knew I was finished. There were guys inside that hospital who were trying to hang themselves. I ended up running away. I got the overnight train back to my wife. The following morning my wife took me to the guard's house and they just sent me home. They said I would be dealt with the next day. They never charged me. They never did anything. They threw me out of the marines with a young baby. We had no help from anyone. I applied for a council house but didn't get one at that time. We survived though. Later on we got a house from a housing association. Every job I've applied for has been blocked because of my discharge from the marines. I have been stigmatised by my military record. An example of this was when I applied to be in the police. I attended all the examinations but, at the last minute, the police checked my record and I didn't get the job.

*Working as a court usher*

51. I started in Nottingham and ended up in Bath. I hated the injustice. I can't stand injustice. I am able to stand up to injustice when it affects other people but I can't stand up to it when it affects myself. I would ask people why they pleaded guilty. I would organise for them to see the duty solicitor. I was always getting in trouble for holding up the court.
52. Kids came into the court and you would want to give them a cuddle. You couldn't do it because you can't do that sort of thing nowadays. They would think you are some sort of pervert or something. I used to argue with people when they brought their kids into court with them. The court shouldn't punish them over and over again. I was frustrated. If I could help the kids then I'd do it but I was limited with what I could do. I used to break down and cry all the time. Seeing the wee kids in the court used to affect me.

**Impact**

53.

*Psychological impact*

54. Quarriers has destroyed my life psychologically. I suffer from severe depression to this day. A doctor has told me that if he opened up my head he would open a can of worms. I can't escape from what happened to me at Quarriers. Every day it's in my head. There's no escape from it. I hide my depression. I still want to do myself in.

55. Things still affect me. There is a NSPCC advert on the telly that has a wee kiddy crying. It sets me off.

*Treatment and counselling*

56. I'm not with any survivor groups. I'm kind of isolated in that way. I'm aware of things in Scotland but I'm not in contact with anybody. I have always resisted taking any therapy. I think, no matter what you say or do, these things aren't going to make a difference for you. I know it won't make me feel any better. I'll live this every day of my life. I can't escape it. Every day I think about what happened to me in care.
57. Through my working life, after the Marines, I had to take drugs to help me out. I ended up taking various drugs in my working life. I also had some respite care Thyrity House. That was for two weeks a year but I was entitled to six weeks. I couldn't go to it all because I was working. I retired in 2003. I decided at that point not to take any more medication. I didn't go to Thyrity House after I retired.

*Effect on career*

58. I cannot confront authority now. I'll walk away from confrontation. I break down. I hate violence of any sort. I end up walking away from all my jobs. I think, if not for my time in Quarriers, I would be able to stand up to authority and sort things out. Not being able to stand up to authority affected me during my time in the marines and has continued to affect me in the jobs I have had since.

**Records**

59. I wanted to get my records because, when you go to the doctors, you are sometimes asked about your family medical history. I have no recollection and I don't know my family medical history. I also feel that I have no history. I wanted to know everything in my life that I have missed.

60. I wrote a letter to Quarriers and asked them for my records. I sent it to the wrong department. I think I sent it to their HR department. That department wouldn't let me get my records. Quarriers eventually only gave me the basics. They basically just gave me my admission form.

### **Contact with Quarriers since leaving**

61. When they started shutting down Quarriers I was working as a police driver. I had to drive a labour councillor called [REDACTED] to the Home. I didn't tell her that I had been in Quarriers. I have also taken my son and wife to Quarriers. My son was a baby at the time. We met [REDACTED] QAJ [REDACTED]

62. There used to be an old boys and girls club for those who had been at Quarriers. I went in one day and had a chat with a girl about the [REDACTED] QAF/QAG That, and writing for my records, are the only times I've been in contact with Quarriers since the day I left for the farm in [REDACTED]

### **Other information**

#### *Final thoughts*

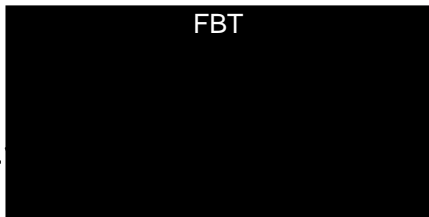
63. The reason that I am speaking to the inquiry is that I don't want children to be treated in the same way I was. I don't want children to be hit, told not to talk and things like that. I know that things are different these days but I want to help anyway.

64. Children should be treated with respect. If a child is asking questions then people should answer them. You shouldn't bully them into not asking questions or into a situation where they are frightened. Fear is a terrible thing.

65. If children wet the bed then these things happen. Instead of punishing the child people should investigate why the bed wetting is happening.

- 66. There should be someone who is not within the system who children can speak to about things. There should be a go-between that children can go and speak to if there is a problem. Someone who is a third party who isn't part of the home.
  
- 67. My experience of care was that everything was a punishment. I feel that way to this day. Sometimes I feel as if I am still being punished. I just don't want children in the future to be abused. I just want them to be listened to.
  
- 68. I hope, through speaking to the inquiry, what has happened to me comes to light. I hope that people will believe that the things that happened to me actually happened. I hope people will see that it is not just one person who went through these things. I hope that anyone who is alive will be investigated and prosecuted.
  
- 69. 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.

FBT



Signed.....

Dated.....

*1/0/17*