



1963. After that I was put in to cottage 13 where the house parents were Mr and Mrs QDW/QDX

6. I recall that Quarriers had wide open spaces and there was a lot of freedom. There was also a church there which was the only time I saw any of my brothers or sisters. I remember that cottage 13 was right next to the nursery which might be why I was put in there. None of my brothers or sisters were in cottage 13 with me.
7. Mr and Mrs QDW/QD were in their 50's and I know that they retired to Ireland in the 70's. Mr QDW would reprimand the other kids but I didn't see him abuse them.
8. There were between three and five children in each dorm and I would say there were at least ten boys and girls in each cottage.
9. The only thing I recall about the food was that we got tapioca which I hated. Basically you ate what you were given or you starved. I have no recollection of anybody being force-fed.

#### *Injury at Quarriers*

10. One of my few recollections of my time there was standing on the table when Mr QDW slapped me on the head causing me to fall off the table whereupon I broke my arm. Whether he meant to break my arm or not I cannot say.
11. One thing I do recall about that was, because I had to get a stookie, plaster cast on my arm, I wasn't allowed to go on a holiday I was due to be going on. That would have been the first holiday I would have gone on. I would have been about four years old at this time so it would probably be 1964.
12. Another thing I would say about that time of my life was that later, when I was eight, I had an operation on my left eye but they were unable to save the sight in it.

13. I was told that if the operation had been done before I had turned five they could have saved my sight. The problem with my eye was never picked up during my time in Quarriers.

### Leaving Quarriers

14. At the age of three I went to stay with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] in Paisley. This was arranged by my social worker Mr Clarke who was my social worker till I was sixteen. His boss was Mrs [REDACTED] QKC whose office was in Clydebank. I recall being in her office one time and her battering my head with the back of her hand causing my head to hit a bookcase.
15. Prior to me leaving Quarriers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] had been taking me out at weekends, probably as preparation for them fostering me. They were to become the only real parents I ever knew.
16. When I was fourteen or fifteen I learned that my whole family were moved from Quarriers because one of my brothers, I don't know which one, was sexually abused.

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**Life after care**

86. During that summer when I left Woodcroft I was offered a live-in position [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in Argyle. I did the summer there then went to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Torquay. I did a second year apprenticeship there then a third year apprenticeship in Leicester.

87. I eventually became a Maître D' which I did for many years. When I left catering I moved into landscaping but developed medical problems and had to retire from it about ten years ago. I haven't worked since.
88. I was never married but have two children. I keep in touch with my daughter though not so much with my son who stays with his mum.

### **Impact**

89. Sometimes at night it won't leave my mind. I try to minimise the impact by becoming a third person to it. I feel as if I've been a pawn in a game of chess and moved from pillar to post without ever being given a reason.
90. I feel as if I've just accepted it because there's nothing else I can do. I don't like it but to move on I've had to accept what happened. I think to have settled down and be happy after what I went through took some doing. It's something I'll never forget.

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### **Records**

92. I have never asked for my records though I have signed a mandate authorising a lawyer's firm in Glasgow, Thomson's in Bath Street, who are taking out an action against Dumbarton Social Services on my behalf, to try and obtain them.

**Counselling**

93. I was never on medication after leaving Woodcroft and I am unaware of having had any mental health issues while there though I am now on anti-depressants and pain killers.
94. About fourteen years ago I saw a forensic psychiatrist from Ayrshire on two or three occasions, Dr Flowerdew. He asked me to write a life-line. I remember asking [REDACTED] to read it. She just stood and cried and hugged me. She hadn't realised how much I had gone through.
95. Dr Flowerdew said I had been a victim of the state and that what had happened to me had been terrible. I felt a lot better having spoken to him.

**Lessons to be Learned**

96. They should take away the masculinity and violence. There should be more therapeutic talking. If kids have to get drugs it should not be overdone. You shouldn't go overboard with prescription drugs.
97. I think there should be a better way than people having to come forward. Establishments should be better inspected in the first place. Undercover cameras have shown how much abuse still goes on in places where they are supposed to be looking after people.
98. Such places should be better staffed with the appropriate number of psychiatrists in place and the patients welfare should be better represented.
99. The past has to be put to bed and the future has to be rewritten before it's implied. Rules and regulations have to be changed and better ones put in place. The children have to be listened to.

**Other information**

100. [REDACTED] died about 24 years ago. About sixteen years ago [REDACTED] broke her hip and I looked after her until she died about ten years ago. I couldn't have wished for two better people to look after me. It's probably thanks to them that I never took to either drink or drugs.

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

Signed.. [REDACTED] QEQ .....

Dated..... 20/6/2018 .....