

1 Thursday, 8 November 2018

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning. As indicated last night when we  
4 rose, I think we resume evidence this morning with an  
5 oral witness; is that right?

6 MR PEOPLES: Yes, good morning, my Lady. The next witness  
7 to give oral evidence is John Porteous.

8 JOHN PORTEOUS (sworn)

9 LADY SMITH: Please sit down and make yourself comfortable.

10 You may have noticed that now the microphone is on,  
11 it's going to pick up your voice much more easily.

12 Could I ask you to see that you stay in a good position  
13 for the microphone, so we can hear you properly and the  
14 stenographers can hear you through the sound system.

15 A. Can I do a test?

16 LADY SMITH: That's great. I'll tell you if you drift away;  
17 people do.

18 A. Good morning, everyone.

19 LADY SMITH: That's good.

20 Now, Mr Peoples.

21 Questions from MR PEOPLES

22 MR PEOPLES: My Lady.

23 Mr Porteous, I propose, if you have no objection, to  
24 call you John. I have done that with other witnesses  
25 who are giving evidence, unless you wish to be addressed

- 1 in another way. Would that be okay?
- 2 A. That's fine, thank you.
- 3 Q. You'll see in front of you in the red folder what I hope  
4 will be two statements that you have provided to the  
5 inquiry prior to giving evidence today.
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. For the benefit of the transcript, I'll just give the  
8 references that we use to identify those statements, if  
9 I may. The first statement that you provided is  
10 WIT.001.002.1148.
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. You also provided an additional statement, which is  
13 WIT.003.001.6206.
- 14 Could I ask you at this stage simply to turn to the  
15 final page of each statement. I think in the case of  
16 the first statement, it's at page 1157. I'm not sure  
17 there's actually a signature on that.
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. Is there a signature on yours?
- 20 A. Not on mine, no.
- 21 Q. Can you confirm for me that you did provide this  
22 statement to the inquiry?
- 23 A. Oh yes, yes, I did.
- 24 Q. And so far as the second statement is concerned that  
25 I mentioned, I think on this occasion if we look at

1 page 6210 of the second statement, you'll see that  
2 I think at the foot of that page you have signed and  
3 dated that second statement.

4 A. I have, yes.

5 Q. Today I may ask you some questions about the statement,  
6 but perhaps I can start with some general information.

7 Firstly, could I ask you to confirm that you were  
8 born in the year 1933?

9 A. That is true, yes.

10 Q. We're principally concerned with the period during which  
11 you worked for Quarriers.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Just maybe at this stage, can you recall the dates  
14 during which you were employed by Quarriers?

15 A. It was March 1969 ...

16 Q. I think in your statement, if I could help you, John,  
17 you say that you stopped working for Quarriers in 1974.  
18 My information from Quarriers suggests that you  
19 continued working until perhaps around about March or  
20 April 1978 when you'd be approaching your 65th birthday;  
21 does that ring a bell?

22 A. Yes. I don't know why I put that down because it was --  
23 I was 65.

24 Q. You were nearly 65 when you retired from your employment  
25 with Quarriers?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. I'd like to begin -- I think you tell us in your first  
3 statement that when you were younger, you were actually  
4 brought up in Quarriers.
- 5 A. I was indeed, yes; I was actually born in Quarriers.
- 6 Q. Quarrier's Village?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. I was just going to ask you a few questions about that  
9 period. First of all, you say you were born in  
10 Quarrier's Village. For how long as a child did you  
11 live at Quarriers?
- 12 A. Until I was 15.
- 13 Q. So you spent your whole --
- 14 A. The whole of my young life at Quarriers, yes.
- 15 Q. Did you go to school at the Quarriers' school?
- 16 A. I did.
- 17 Q. Can you help us: did you stay in one of the cottages  
18 that was at the village?
- 19 A. I did, yes.
- 20 Q. Did you stay in more than one?
- 21 A. I moved when I was -- I think it was when I was about  
22 15, to another house, because the present house parents,  
23 they were retiring, so the children got scattered to  
24 various houses. So I moved to another house.
- 25 Q. When you were about 15?

1 A. About 15, yes.

2 Q. You did you spend most of your --

3 A. I was in the baby homes to start with and then moved to

4 a toddlers' department and then on to a cottage.

5 Q. Can you remember which cottage you were in?

6 A. 41.

7 Q. And can you remember the house parents?

8 A. Yes, QOF/QOG .

9 Q. QOF/QOG ?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. What sort of memories do you have of your childhood in

12 Quarriers with QOF/QOG in cottage 41?

13 A. There were about 22 of us, possibly more, so it was very

14 difficult. I would say that -- well, you couldn't do

15 anything much. There was no love in the cottage, for

16 a start, because looking after 22 children of different

17 ages, you know, but I felt just had to follow the

18 regime. That's all you could do.

19 Q. Was it quite a regimented routine --

20 A. It was.

21 Q. -- in those days?

22 A. Yes, it was.

23 Q. And I suppose then are we talking of the period, if you

24 were born in 1933, perhaps between 1933 and 1948 or

25 thereabouts that you were 15, I think?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Would that be the period that you were mainly in  
3 cottage 21?

4 A. 41.

5 Q. Sorry, 41.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. With [REDACTED] QOF/QOG ?

8 A. That's right, yes.

9 Q. And so did they retire around the time that you turned  
10 15?

11 A. Yes, they did.

12 Q. So were they quite elderly by then?

13 A. Oh, they were, yes.

14 Q. Had they been there a long time?

15 A. They had. I don't know how many years they had been  
16 there, but they certainly had been for a while.

17 I was a bit fortunate in the house because there  
18 wasn't much -- I didn't have much trouble with them.  
19 Certainly I was punished a few times, but that was it.  
20 That was the norm.

21 Q. I was going to ask you about that. How were children  
22 punished in cottage 41 when [REDACTED] QOF/QOG --

23 A. It was a belt they used. They used a belt on the hands.

24 Q. What sort of belt?

25 A. Well, because [REDACTED] QOF was working in the gardens with

1 horses, it wasn't the normal type of strap, it was just  
2 a leather -- a black leather strap he used --

3 Q. When you say it wasn't a normal type --

4 A. -- part of a horse harness.

5 Q. It wasn't --

6 A. Just a strap from the harness.

7 Q. It wasn't a school belt?

8 A. No, no.

9 Q. And it wasn't a waist belt that someone would wear on  
10 their waist?

11 A. No.

12 Q. It sounds -- was it thick?

13 A. It was; it was quite sore.

14 Q. It was sore when it was used?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And you say it was used on you from time to time?

17 A. Oh yes, yes. I wasn't an angel.

18 Q. Was it used on other children?

19 A. Oh yes, I think everybody got it at one time.

20 Q. Was it painful?

21 A. Oh, very much so. In fact, if it went up your arm, you  
22 were bruised for about a day, a few days. You were just  
23 trying to hide it with your jersey.

24 Q. Who was doing the belting?

25 A. **QOF**.

1 Q. Was there any other form of corporal punishment other  
2 than the use of this belt?

3 A. No, that was it.

4 Q. Did either **QOF/QOG** either use their hands to punish?

5 A. A slap on the face now and again, but you had to duck.  
6 If you were quick enough, you missed them. But yes they  
7 did.

8 Q. So a slap on the face was also a type of punishment  
9 used?

10 A. Yes, it was.

11 Q. And would that be sore at times?

12 A. It would be.

13 Q. Did it leave marks?

14 A. No, no. A red mark, that's all.

15 Q. But it would go away?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Was it painful?

18 A. Very much so.

19 Q. In those days, what would happen if a child didn't want  
20 to eat the food they were served up?

21 A. Well, in our case, they weren't force-fed, but the food  
22 was taken away from them and they may have got it for  
23 the next meal. It would be heated up. It'd be the same  
24 meal but heated up. In other words, the food that they  
25 left --



- 1 Q. Would be served up again?
- 2 A. -- you had a certain time to eat it and after that, if  
3 you didn't eat it, you didn't want it, then it was  
4 a waste not want not. It was like that. So they  
5 actually had it the following meal. We had a different  
6 meal but they had the same meal that they'd had, say,  
7 the meal before.
- 8 Q. Did you tend to eat up?
- 9 A. I did, yes.
- 10 Q. But there were children that didn't do that?
- 11 A. Well, possibly because they were ill or something like  
12 that. That was quite difficult. The children didn't  
13 want to say that they weren't well in case they got  
14 belted. That was the type of regime it was.
- 15 Q. Why would they get belted if they were ill?
- 16 A. I suppose it was a waste of time.
- 17 Q. If someone was complaining of being ill they might get  
18 belted?
- 19 A. That's very true, yes.
- 20 Q. How often would these meals be re-served to someone that  
21 didn't want to eat the food?
- 22 A. Not very often because I think lessons were taught, you  
23 know.
- 24 Q. What do you mean by that?
- 25 A. They decided they were going to eat it. If they were

- 1           going to be sick afterwards, fair enough, but they  
2           wouldn't be eating the same meal.
- 3       Q.   Were there times when children were sick because they  
4           simply couldn't eat the meal because they didn't like  
5           it?
- 6       A.   They probably ate the meal and were sick afterwards.  
7           You had to have your plate clean.
- 8       Q.   Whatever was on it?
- 9       A.   Whatever was on it, yes.  Mind you, the food was good.  
10           There's no doubt about it.
- 11      Q.   You found it good?
- 12      A.   I did, yes, I found it good.
- 13      Q.   But there would be children who wouldn't like everything  
14           that was served?
- 15      A.   That's true.
- 16      Q.   How were bed-wetters treated?
- 17      A.   They were treated terribly.  They got belted because of  
18           this.  Fortunately, I didn't wet my bed, but we had  
19           about half a dozen children that did.  You really felt  
20           sorry for them.  They tried to hide it, but they just  
21           couldn't.
- 22      Q.   The children tried to hide the fact they had wet the  
23           bed?
- 24      A.   Yes, because they knew they were going to get punished  
25           for it.

1 Q. And who was doing the punishment?

2 A. The staff.

3 Q. Well, you mentioned --

4 A. **QOF/QOG**

5 Q. Were there other staff that did it?

6 A. No, no, not then.

7 Q. Did they have any other assistance?

8 A. No. That was later on that the assistants came.

9 Q. Was it this belt that you've told us about earlier?

10 A. That was used, yes.

11 Q. And was it used more than once for --

12 A. I think so, yes. It was cruel, there's no doubt about

13 it.

14 Q. Was it painful?

15 A. It must have been -- well, I've had the belt so I know

16 it would have been painful.

17 Q. If it was anything like the belting you got, it would be

18 painful?

19 A. It would, yes.

20 Q. Did you see these children getting belted?

21 A. You couldn't help but see them.

22 Q. So they didn't hide the fact that they were belting the

23 children in this way?

24 A. No, no, they didn't hide it all -- if you weren't in the

25 room, you would have heard it anyway.

- 1 Q. You heard what?
- 2 A. You heard the child screaming.
- 3 Q. There was screaming?
- 4 A. Oh yes.
- 5 Q. That was something that stands out as a vivid enough  
6 memory from your time in Quarriers as a child?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. We've heard that in Quarriers, the general layout of  
9 these cottages -- or large houses, in fact -- was that  
10 they had what has sometimes been described as a shed or  
11 outhouse at the back.
- 12 A. There was an open shed at the back. I think it was  
13 round about the 1960s they started to fill the shed in,  
14 make it dry, but it was an open shed, so all types of  
15 weather was coming in.
- 16 Q. Was that shed used as a punishment place?
- 17 A. Not to my knowledge.
- 18 Q. What was it used for?
- 19 A. When it was wet, that's where the children played. It  
20 was a fair -- it was actually the length of the cottage  
21 itself, so it was quite a big shed.
- 22 Q. Were children ever locked in rooms or cupboards in your  
23 time?
- 24 A. Not to -- no.
- 25 Q. Did you ever hear of that happening?

- 1 A. I didn't, no, I didn't.
- 2 Q. Would you say that -- the description of what you've  
3 said about how children were belted, would you consider  
4 that what they were receiving would qualify as beatings?
- 5 A. I would think so, yes -- certainly in the present day  
6 it would.
- 7 Q. But even in those days?
- 8 A. I suppose it was a thing that happened.
- 9 Q. Yes, it happened, but --
- 10 A. It happened in any home, I think.
- 11 Q. Yes, but it would merit the description of beating?
- 12 A. Certainly, yes, yes.
- 13 Q. You were in cottage 41 and was that an all-boys cottage?
- 14 A. It was, yes. This was the sad thing: there was boys,  
15 certain boys cottages, certain girls cottages, so if you  
16 had brothers or sisters, you never saw them. You may  
17 have seen them at school, but that was about it.
- 18 Q. Did you or the children in your cottage 41, did you tend  
19 to socialise with children in other cottages?
- 20 A. Yes, at school.
- 21 Q. Did you go to their cottages?
- 22 A. No, you weren't allowed to do that; you met them at  
23 school.
- 24 Q. Who told you you couldn't go to another cottage?
- 25 A. The house parents.

1 Q. [REDACTED] QOF/QOG ?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Do you know why you were told --

4 A. Just in case we were giving gossip of what was

5 happening.

6 Q. Gossip about what?

7 A. What was happening in our house.

8 Q. In case you spread the gossip as to what was happening?

9 A. Yes. The children couldn't go to the office to

10 complain, otherwise it would be worse for them. And

11 that was the way of it. You just had to accept what was

12 there.

13 Q. So children didn't complain because -- were they too

14 afraid to go to the office in case they might be

15 punished more?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Did they believe that if they went to the office or told

18 someone, someone would listen?

19 A. No, they wouldn't listen because they wouldn't believe

20 us. They wouldn't believe us at all.

21 Q. How was that made clear to the children that they simply

22 were not going to be believed?

23 A. If they had the courage to go to the office, we knew the

24 consequences, we would get the belt when we came back

25 home.

- 1 Q. You were aware that that would happen in your time?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. And would that be [REDACTED] QOF/QOG would punish them for  
4 going to the office to report something?
- 5 A. Yes, that's right.
- 6 Q. Did children in cottage 41, to your knowledge, run away  
7 from time to time?
- 8 A. Yes, possibly about three ran away, but that again was  
9 dangerous.
- 10 Q. Why was that dangerous?
- 11 A. Because when they got caught, they just got hammered  
12 again.
- 13 Q. By whom?
- 14 A. By the staff, [REDACTED] QOF/QOG. And it was a cruel  
15 thing. All I would say was they had the guts to do that  
16 but again the consequences weren't good at all.
- 17 Q. They paid a heavy price when they got back?
- 18 A. They certainly did, yes.
- 19 Q. Who was in overall charge in your time, who was --
- 20 A. The chairman was Dr Kelly.
- 21 Q. Was that Dr James Kelly?
- 22 A. James Kelly, and the superintendent was Hector Munro.  
23 Now, he was quite a passive man because I think his  
24 hands were tied, too.
- 25 Q. In what way?

1 A. I got to know him later on in life and I was very  
2 friendly with his son. I think he was sympathetic but  
3 he couldn't do anything about it.

4 Q. What was he sympathetic to?

5 A. He saw things happening that he wouldn't have done  
6 himself.

7 Q. Would he have seen beatings?

8 A. He wouldn't, no, he would just have been told about  
9 them.

10 Q. By whom?

11 A. Children. They came down -- he would listen to them but  
12 that's as far as it went.

13 Q. He'd listen but do nothing?

14 A. Do nothing at all.

15 Q. Nothing changed even if he was told about these things?

16 A. Nothing changed, no.

17 LADY SMITH: John, you said he couldn't do anything about  
18 it; why not?

19 A. Well, I think his hands were tied.

20 LADY SMITH: By whom?

21 A. Dr Kelly was a very strict man. Now that I -- when  
22 I got older, I realised that he wasn't interested in  
23 Quarriers, he was just the chairman there. He was with  
24 the Bible society and that was his sole work. And  
25 I felt that he went there -- I remember one boy



1           complained, he went to Dr Kelly, "Away home, we're not  
2           interested". That was it, the results.

3           MR PEOPLES: Was this a boy in your cottage?

4           A. No, no, another boy.

5           Q. But you heard about it?

6           A. Yes.

7           Q. And he just wasn't interested in listening or doing  
8           anything about it?

9           A. That's right.

10          Q. And although, as you say, Hector Munro was  
11          sympathetic --

12          A. Very much so.

13          Q. -- you felt he couldn't do anything to change things at  
14          all?

15          A. He couldn't do anything, no.

16          Q. Was this largely the way it was in your childhood in  
17          Quarriers?

18          A. Yes.

19          Q. I sense you're describing from what you heard as well as  
20          what happened in cottage 41 that this wasn't unique to  
21          cottage 41, this way of --

22          A. No, I think it's just all around. There were  
23          house parents who were very good, good Christian  
24          house parents and they were very sympathetic. But  
25          others -- this is what later on in life I discovered,

1           that to be house parents you had to be Christian. Well,  
2           later on I thought, if that's the way a Christian works,  
3           I'm surprised.

4           Q. Was that the qualification?

5           A. That was the qualification.

6           Q. Did they expect any training or prior childcare  
7           experience at that time?

8           A. That I don't know.

9           Q. You don't know?

10          A. No. Later on in life when I came back to Quarriers,  
11          there was certainly training. There was a completely  
12          different regime altogether.

13          Q. But in those days you wouldn't directly know as a child  
14          but did it seem to you, given the fact that you went  
15          back there as an adult, that there was any form of  
16          training? Did it seem obvious that house parents knew  
17          how to look after children?

18          A. I don't think so. It'd be very difficult with  
19          22 children --

20          Q. Would there be times when **QOF/QOG** would find it  
21          hard to cope with 22 children of different ages with  
22          perhaps quite troubled backgrounds in some case?

23          A. I would think so, yes.

24          Q. You were there.

25          A. I was there.

1 Q. I was just wondering if you could help us. Was that the  
2 situation?

3 A. Oh, it was the situation.

4 Q. Did they get any support in those days --

5 A. No.

6 Q. -- from either Mr Munro or Dr Kelly?

7 A. No. There wasn't really. The staff had a meeting every  
8 second Friday; I don't know what it consisted of.

9 Q. Did it make any difference to the way that you were  
10 treated or other children?

11 A. No, it didn't.

12 Q. Did you see much of either Dr Kelly or Hector Munro in  
13 cottage 41?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Did they just keep in the background?

16 A. That's right, yes.

17 Q. Does that mean that **QOF/QOG** basically could do  
18 as they wanted?

19 A. Very much so.

20 Q. So they really had a free rein as to how they looked  
21 after and treated children?

22 A. More or less, yes.

23 Q. Because presumably the implement used by **QOF** was  
24 not a standard Quarriers issue.

25 A. No.

- 1 Q. He just chose it as an implement to use on children?
- 2 A. Yes. And to be quite honest, I don't think he wanted to  
3 do it. His wife was the person that was really the  
4 wicked individual. She was the wicked individual to my  
5 knowledge.
- 6 Q. You think that's a good description of her?
- 7 A. Yes, and she was the one saying to her husband, do this,  
8 do that, do the next. He was quite a gentle man.
- 9 Q. He did do the belting?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. With this implement?
- 12 A. Yes, because later on I worked in the gardens with him  
13 and he was a completely different man altogether.
- 14 Q. But he still did it?
- 15 A. Oh yes, yes.
- 16 Q. She would ask him to give --
- 17 A. That's right, yes.
- 18 Q. -- the punishment?
- 19 A. Yes. And sometimes you were belted for something you  
20 didn't do. I think she just thought, it's a long time  
21 since he has had the belt, we'll go again. That seemed  
22 to be the --
- 23 Q. So there was no rhyme or reason for the punishments or  
24 why they were being given?
- 25 A. No, none whatsoever.

1 Q. It sounds like you're describing a situation where --  
2 maybe it might seem old-fashioned these days, but it was  
3 for the man of the house to give out the physical  
4 punishments?

5 A. Yes, that's right.

6 Q. And that that would be the expectation --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- that someone like [QOG] would basically say,  
9 well -- was it [QOF] you called him?

10 A. No, it was Mr and Mrs.

11 Q. Would she just say to someone who was going to get one  
12 of these beatings, "Wait until [QOF] comes home"?

13 A. That's right, yes, that's it.

14 Q. Something like that?

15 A. That's it.

16 (Pause)

17 Q. I think I was saying that it might be along the lines of  
18 [QOG] saying, just wait until [QOF] gets home and  
19 then he would give one of these punishments to the  
20 children; is that the way it was?

21 A. Yes, it was.

22 Q. And do I take it therefore that [QOG] would tend to  
23 leave the physical punishment, the corporal punishment,  
24 to [QOF]?

25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. If you had to describe your time as a child in  
2 Quarriers, was it a good or a bad experience?
- 3 A. It was a bad experience. When I came back to Quarriers  
4 the second time to work there, I just saw a great  
5 difference, a great difference. It was really good.  
6 Quarriers then, they had people there that were caring  
7 and loving, and that's what I liked about it.
- 8 Q. Were they all caring and loving when you went?
- 9 A. I believe they were.
- 10 Q. How would you know that?
- 11 A. I think they certainly had a lot of training on  
12 childcare, and I believe -- well, what I saw when I went  
13 round the houses -- as you'll know, I used to visit  
14 every cottage at least once a month. And later on,  
15 outstations, for fire safety, and make sure the  
16 buildings were still okay for them to be in. That was  
17 my job.
- 18 Q. So you would go to various cottages?
- 19 A. Yes, I knew -- I very nearly knew all the children.
- 20 Q. What times of day would you go?
- 21 A. I did a fire drill once every month and it was any time  
22 of day. In fact, sometimes night-time.
- 23 Q. Would it generally be during the daytime?
- 24 A. Yes, I'd do that.
- 25 Q. Would that be the general time?

- 1 A. Around about the teatime when the children were back  
2 from school.
- 3 Q. So you might see them at teatime?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. You wouldn't see them at lunchtime?
- 6 A. No.
- 7 Q. For breakfast?
- 8 A. I went somewhere else. Because we had workshops as well  
9 I had to check out.
- 10 Q. Maybe I can take you on then. If we can move away from  
11 your childhood in Quarriers and just look at your  
12 working life before Quarriers. If I can just briefly  
13 find out what you were doing before you got to Quarriers  
14 as an adult.
- 15 A. Yes, I was in the Royal Air Force for 12 years as  
16 a fireman, fire and rescue, I was with the fire and  
17 rescue service there. And then after that, for about  
18 three months, while I was waiting to go into Glasgow  
19 Airport, because they were still working on it, I went  
20 to the Glasgow Corporation buses because I didn't like  
21 to be idle. And I had a heavy duty vehicle licence. So  
22 I was driving buses for about three months and then went  
23 to Glasgow Airport.
- 24 Q. What age were you when you left Quarriers as a child,  
25 did you say?

- 1 A. I was 16, nearly.
- 2 Q. Did you immediately join the Royal Air Force?
- 3 A. No, no.
- 4 Q. What did you do --
- 5 A. I was 18. I was with the Corporation of Glasgow doing  
6 gardening, which I didn't enjoy because -- that's where  
7 I was put. So I suffered that for two years, but I did  
8 my job right enough. In fact, they asked me to stay on,  
9 but I wanted to go to the Air Force.
- 10 Q. I take it from what you've said that if you served  
11 around 12 years in the Royal Air Force in their fire  
12 department, you were there from maybe about the ages of  
13 18 to 30?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Would that be about right?
- 16 A. Round about, yes.
- 17 Q. And then you had a spell, after a short period with the  
18 Glasgow Corporation driving HGV vehicles, you worked at  
19 Glasgow Airport in the Fire Service there?
- 20 A. Yes, that's right, until 1969.
- 21 Q. So how many years were you at the airport?
- 22 A. That would be probably about four years. The airport  
23 opened in 1966 for work, and I was there until 1969, so  
24 three years.
- 25 Q. At that point you became employed by Quarriers?



- 1 A. Yes. Well, I met a girl.
- 2 Q. You met your wife?
- 3 A. I met my wife, yes. I went down to Quarriers and the  
4 director of childcare said, "We have an opening for  
5 a fire safety", because they had one, but the lad left,  
6 and he asked if I would like that, I said yes. So I was  
7 interviewed by the general director, Dr Davidson, and  
8 I was accepted.
- 9 Q. So the general director -- Dr Davidson was the general  
10 director in 1969; he interviewed you for this job?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. And who was the director of childcare at that time?
- 13 A. Joseph Mortimer.
- 14 Q. So effectively, Dr Davidson was a successor of  
15 James Kelly?
- 16 A. Yes. He was the medical officer or medical doctor  
17 beforehand at Quarriers, and then he was promoted to the  
18 general director.
- 19 Q. And when he was the medical officer, where did he work?
- 20 A. Up in the small hospital.
- 21 Q. Is that the Elise Hospital?
- 22 A. Yes, the Elise Hospital.
- 23 Q. Was there also a place that was known as the epileptic  
24 colony?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Was that separate from --
- 2 A. It was separate. When William Quarrier started his  
3 business or started building the homes, he built the  
4 child area first, then he moved on to epilepsy, and then  
5 from there to the sanatorium. So it was actually three  
6 separate areas that he was keen on.
- 7 Q. That was Dr Davidson?
- 8 A. No, no, that was William Quarrier.
- 9 Q. Sorry, yes. I think we know historically that he  
10 established a sanatorium, the Elise Hospital, and indeed  
11 a unit for epilepsy sufferers with learning  
12 difficulties.
- 13 A. Not really. There were one or two -- they were actually  
14 youngsters and they just grew up in Quarriers,  
15 transferred from the home, it was known as Elim House,  
16 and it was transferred there to the centre, which was  
17 separate. Again, there was something wrong there too  
18 because they had to stay with themselves, not allowed  
19 into the village, because people felt they were  
20 dangerous, but they were looking at it in the wrong way.
- 21 Q. So children who suffered from epilepsy were housed in  
22 Elim House, is it?
- 23 A. Yes, the children.
- 24 Q. And as they became older and reached adulthood, they  
25 went to the epileptic colony?

1 A. Yes. It was known as the colony, but that was changed  
2 because it was a horrible word, really.

3 Q. But if a child in any cottage needed medical treatment,  
4 they could be taken to the Elise Hospital?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And would they be seen by an in-house doctor --

7 A. They'd see the matron, nurse matron, and then on to the  
8 doctor. So that was the way -- if they felt it was  
9 a doctor's requirement and that was it.

10 Q. Who would be the doctor that would treat --

11 A. It would be Dr Davidson and Dr Morris. They were the  
12 two doctors.

13 Q. Were they employed by Quarriers?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. They weren't local doctors from Bridge of Weir?

16 A. No, they were employed by ...

17 Q. So were they based at Quarriers?

18 A. Yes, they were.

19 Q. You tell us that, so far as recruitment, you've told us  
20 that you were told there was a vacancy for a job as fire  
21 and safety officer and that you learned through the then  
22 director of childcare, Joe Mortimer?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. You told us also, I think, that by then you had met your  
25 wife, [REDACTED].

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. And you had got married?
- 3 A. We did.
- 4 Q. So did you get married before you moved to Quarriers?
- 5 A. Yes. I started working at Quarriers after we were  
6 married.
- 7 Q. By the time you joined Quarriers in 1969, what was your  
8 wife's position there?
- 9 A. She was a house mother.
- 10 Q. And where was she the house mother?
- 11 A. She was the house mother in cottage [REDACTED]
- 12 Q. [REDACTED]
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. We have heard that in some cottages there were simply  
15 one house parent; was she a sole house parent?
- 16 A. No, we had assistants. We had one assistant. Every  
17 cottage had an assistant. Because I was there myself,  
18 I stayed there, although I wasn't a house father; I was  
19 health and safety.
- 20 Q. Yes. Before we get to you joining Quarriers, I just  
21 want to get the picture. Your wife, when you got  
22 married, was a house mother in cottage [REDACTED]
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. She had an assistant to help her; is that right?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Because in some cottages I think by that stage there  
2 would be couples who were house parents.
- 3 A. Yes, that's true.
- 4 Q. What you're telling me, if I understand, is that when  
5 you then got married and you took up this job in 1969  
6 that you were not officially a house father, your role  
7 was that of fire and safety officer?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. That was your job?
- 10 A. I was given the choice of being house father, and I said  
11 no, I'd much prefer to be out. If I was a house father  
12 I'd be tied in ways, and if there was an emergency  
13 I wouldn't -- because I was on 24-hour call.
- 14 Q. I'm just trying to get my head round this. When you  
15 joined Quarriers, you presumably moved into a cottage.
- 16 A. I did, with [REDACTED], yes.
- 17 Q. Was that cottage [REDACTED]
- 18 A. It was.
- 19 Q. And you would stay there, that was your home?
- 20 A. That's right.
- 21 Q. So far as the children were concerned, you wouldn't seem  
22 any different than any other couple in other cottages,  
23 you'd be considered to be a house father?
- 24 A. That's right.
- 25 Q. And you did to some extent play that role even if it

1           wasn't your official role?

2           A. Yes, I was asked to do that because it'd be a heavy job  
3           for ██████ to do on her own. It was very rare because  
4           most of time I was out, out of the house, doing fire  
5           drills, or on occasions I used to go to churches to  
6           speak to Women's Guilds about the history of Quarriers.

7           Q. Correct me if I'm wrong, but my understanding was that  
8           in other cottages where there were house parents, if you  
9           like and a father and a mother figure, the father figure  
10          might well have a job either in Quarrier's Village or  
11          outwith Quarriers during the day.

12          A. Yes. Earlier, that happened, and then there was  
13          a change. Every house father was asked if they wanted  
14          to stay as the house father and leave the jobs that they  
15          had or they could still go out to work, and one or two  
16          did decide to stay with the house -- just sort of dealt  
17          with everything in the house, whereas others decided to  
18          go out to work where they were.

19          Q. Historically when you were at Quarriers, the  
20          house father traditionally went to do a job and would  
21          come back at night?

22          A. Yes.

23          Q. When did this change take place when the house father  
24          was expected to be either a house father or do some  
25          other job?

1       A. I would say possibly about 70 -- it could be the early  
2       1980s when that happened because training was ongoing  
3       all the time -- that's what I liked about Quarriers,  
4       because they did care for everyone, including the staff,  
5       and they wanted to make sure that the staff knew how to  
6       deal with children.

7       Q. You estimate that this change, where effectively there  
8       was becoming a dedicated role of house father to the  
9       exclusion of other work happened perhaps in the  
10      eighties, do you think?

11     A. It would do, yes, uh-huh.

12     Q. And was that at a point when perhaps Quarrier's Village  
13      was running down and there were fewer children and  
14      changes were happening generally?

15     A. Just before that happened, because Dr Davidson, he  
16      retired -- now I don't know just when -- and it was  
17      a Dr ... There was another man came in; he didn't last  
18      long. Then Dr Minto came and he was the general  
19      director then. And I think that's when the changeover  
20      was.

21     Q. Can you remember when Dr Minto replaced Dr Davidson?

22     A. I think it was probably about 1984, round about that.  
23      But before that -- if you remember, earlier on we said  
24      that there were boys' cottages and girls' cottages. But  
25      before Davidson retired, he felt this was the wrong

1           thing because brothers and sisters weren't allowed to be  
2           together, so he changed that, so the cottages became  
3           boys and girls. Some children couldn't be together  
4           because of their behaviour, but as near as possible they  
5           tried to get brothers and sisters in the same house.

6           Q. So you're describing at some point, before Dr Davidson  
7           retired and was replaced by Dr Minto, there was a change  
8           of policy towards siblings?

9           A. Yes.

10          Q. That they were trying to move away from separation,  
11          which was the historical position, to keeping siblings  
12          together?

13          A. That's right.

14          Q. Unless there were behavioural problems?

15          A. Yes. Families came in from various places, probably  
16          about three or four, and you'd find that one child was  
17          just -- they just didn't get on with each other. So  
18          there was no point putting them in the same house  
19          because there'd just be trouble.

20          Q. In the case of such children, when they were moved away  
21          from a cottage where their siblings were based --

22          A. Not too far away.

23          Q. -- were they placed in a particular type of cottage that  
24          might be seen as capable of addressing the behaviour?

25          A. No, not necessarily, no. It was just to keep them out



1 of the road to save any more problems. They certainly  
2 met at school and various other places, went out  
3 playing. That was okay. But it was just to keep things  
4 calm.

5 Q. By the time that you joined Quarriers in 1969, the  
6 **QOF/QOG** were long gone?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. They were old school, I suppose.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. But there would still be people that had been there  
11 a long time?

12 A. Funnily enough, there was quite a change from that  
13 period because most of the house parents then were much  
14 the same age, so it was a complete changeover and  
15 younger folks arrived --

16 Q. Were coming in?

17 A. Yes, and they were -- when they came to Quarriers, they  
18 were trained.

19 Q. Can you put a date to when this sort of change in terms  
20 of this younger set of house parents were coming in?

21 Are we talking of the seventies or the eighties?

22 A. No, it'd probably be about just the late sixties,  
23 I would think.

24 Q. At the time you joined?

25 A. Uh-huh, yes.

1 Q. There was a change going on?

2 A. That's right, yes.

3 Q. But there'd still be some of the old guard, would there?

4 A. Not very many. There were two house mothers -- in fact

5 one of them is still alive.

6 Q. Who was --

7 A. That was Anne Kerr.

8 Q. Was that a house mother?

9 A. She was a house mother.

10 Q. Who was the other one?

11 A. Miss QES, I think her name was.

12 Q. Miss QES?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. They were still there when you joined Quarriers?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And they'd been there a long time?

17 A. They had, yes.

18 Q. And they were single house parents?

19 A. True.

20 Q. But by the time you joined, are you saying that,

21 generally speaking, the approach was to have a house

22 mother and a house father, if you like?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And --

25 A. Well, in the early days, that's what they wanted,

1 a house father and house mother, but as the time went  
2 on, Quarriers accepted single people because there was  
3 assistants there to help them.

4 Q. In the early days are you saying then that generally,  
5 they would like to have had a couple but sometimes they  
6 had to settle for a single house parent?

7 A. That's in the days when I came, 1969, but under the old  
8 regime, it was a house father, house mother. There was  
9 no single ...

10 Q. There was no one --

11 A. No.

12 Q. -- that was a single house parent?

13 A. No, not to my knowledge.

14 Q. Not to your knowledge. But that did change?

15 A. Oh, it did, yes.

16 Q. Was that to do with any problem of getting couples to  
17 become house parents and they simply had to take  
18 a house parent?

19 A. No, no. It was a different thing altogether. From my  
20 time at Quarriers, in 1969, Quarriers' system changed  
21 altogether. They had a good training section and they  
22 wanted people that were interested in children, not  
23 somebody that was just wanting a job.

24 LADY SMITH: Can I just intervene? Mr Peoples, it may be  
25 that you're going to come back to the matter of

1 training -- John's mentioned it a number of times -- but  
2 at some point I want to hear what his memory is of  
3 training.

4 MR PEOPLES: I just want to get some broad picture. I'm not  
5 sure -- maybe it's the way I'm putting the question, but  
6 I suppose I'm trying to work out why there was a move  
7 from house parents to use of a single person, I think  
8 a female as a house mother, with an assistant. I'm  
9 trying to get behind the thinking, to the thinking  
10 behind that change. Why was it seen that that was  
11 better for children in cottages, whether mixed cottages  
12 or all boys or all girls? Why was it seen as better  
13 than a couple?

14 A. I don't think so, I don't think so. I think it was  
15 a case when people were leaving, if other folks came to  
16 be interviewed and they were the right people for the  
17 job, then they were given the job whether they were  
18 married or not. You know, the single person. It was  
19 basically up to the staff, the head staff at Quarriers.  
20 They knew what they were looking for, and if they fitted  
21 that criteria, that was it.

22 LADY SMITH: Is it possible they were getting fewer couples  
23 applying for these roles?

24 A. Yes, it was.

25 LADY SMITH: And they had to look at what applicants they

1 had?

2 A. Yes.

3 LADY SMITH: And start to consider the possibility of taking  
4 single people and then working out how they were going  
5 to get another person to be resident with them to help  
6 look after the children?

7 A. Yes. Quarriers was very keen to have assistants in the  
8 house, in the houses, to help the house mothers and the  
9 house fathers.

10 LADY SMITH: But it seems the point may have been that by  
11 the seventies there was a fall-off in the number of  
12 couples that were interested in taking these jobs?

13 A. Yes.

14 MR PEOPLES: So far as your recruitment is concerned,  
15 you have told us that you learned there was a vacancy  
16 for a particular position at Quarriers.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And that you had an interview with Dr Davidson. I think  
19 you tell us in your statement that Dr Davidson knew you  
20 as a youngster at Quarriers.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Did that help get you the job?

23 A. It possibly did, yes, because -- yes.

24 Q. So far as the job was concerned, can we be clear that  
25 you were not applying for a childcare job?

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. And they weren't offering you a childcare job?
- 3 A. No, they weren't. They knew that I was interested  
4 in the safety of the children and everyone in Quarriers.  
5 That was my idea of it.
- 6 Q. So the qualifications they'd be looking for would be  
7 qualifications or experience in relation to safety  
8 matters and fire safety in particular?
- 9 A. Yes. Later on, in 1974, I think, the Health and Safety  
10 Act came out. I went for training there, too.
- 11 Q. On health and safety?
- 12 A. On health and safety.
- 13 Q. So their interest in you was as someone who would have  
14 experience and training in health and safety and fire  
15 safety?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Which, of course, was your background.
- 18 A. That was my background, yes.
- 19 Q. But one consequence of employing you, because you  
20 happened to be married to a house mother, was that you'd  
21 end up being a de facto house father?
- 22 A. That's right.
- 23 Q. Because you would stay in a cottage?
- 24 A. I would, yes.
- 25 Q. And you'd stay in a cottage with children?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. And you would at times be performing the role of  
3 a house father?
- 4 A. That's right. Not quite often, but I did, yes.
- 5 Q. And they would know that?
- 6 A. Oh yes, uh-huh. What, the Quarriers headquarters?
- 7 Q. Yes. When they employed you, they'd know you'd end up  
8 staying in cottage [REDACTED] and ultimately cottage [REDACTED]
- 9 A. Oh, they knew that, yes.
- 10 Q. With that in mind, did they offer you any training in  
11 childcare?
- 12 A. Yes, they did.
- 13 Q. What training did they offer you?
- 14 A. Just basically what they were looking for, how to  
15 confront -- if a child had problems, you know, how to  
16 try and solve them, where to go if you needed help,  
17 things like that.
- 18 Q. What form did the training take? Who did it?
- 19 A. Bill Dunbar, he was the trainer.
- 20 Q. What qualifications did he have to train you?
- 21 A. He was the assistant -- he was a social worker and  
22 he was the assistant director of childcare.
- 23 Q. So was he effectively Joe Mortimer's number two --
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. -- at Quarriers?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. In a senior management position?

3 A. He was in senior management, yes.

4 Q. Although he did live in a cottage?

5 A. He did.

6 Q. And his wife as a house mother at some point?

7 A. Yes, cottage 4.

8 Q. Cottage 4?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And he was the one that provided you with some training

11 when you began?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Can you remember how long this training continued?

14 A. About a fortnight. We were going through different

15 roles, you know. What problems the child had, if they

16 had problems, how to deal with them, how to speak to the

17 management about any difficulties that we had. All

18 that, and get to know the children, really.

19 Q. So there was a recognition that you wouldn't just be

20 doing a health and safety fire officer role, that you

21 would be --

22 A. Part-time.

23 Q. You would be caring for children?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And therefore you'd have to get some kind of training,



1           if you like, but the training amounted to two weeks in  
2           all?

3           A. Two weeks, yes.

4           Q. Is that it?

5           A. You were training all the time, you know, while you were  
6           on there. You were picking up things that you felt was  
7           either wrong or right. Picking that up, just to try and  
8           be part of the household.

9           Q. Who would be judging whether something was right or  
10          something was wrong? If that is what's colloquially  
11          known as on-the-job training, help me with this: who  
12          would determine whether a particular practice or  
13          a particular way of handling a situation was right or  
14          wrong? Who was making that judgement?

15          A. Well, I believe that it would be the director of  
16          childcare, and of course we had social workers as well,  
17          and in fact children sometimes would say -- certainly  
18          not with me, but other folks, "We don't do this, play  
19          with us". I was keen to take the children out to parks  
20          and football and stuff like that. I was keen to do  
21          that. But others, they weren't sporty.

22          Q. Apart from this training at the beginning for two weeks  
23          by Mr Dunbar, this subsequent training as you describe  
24          it, what form did it take? Were you having discussions  
25          with particular people in a structured setting or was it

1           just an informal casual chat from time to time?

2       A. No, we had lectures and we had the various groups like  
3           psychologists and people like that telling us what to  
4           expect if anything happened.

5       LADY SMITH: Was that in the two-week training period?

6       A. Yes, that was during the two-week period.

7       LADY SMITH: I just wondered if John had misunderstood that.  
8           Was that two weeks' training in 1969 when you started?

9       A. Yes, it was a very filled two weeks. You were there all  
10           the time.

11       MR PEOPLES: Where were you?

12       A. In Quarriers itself.

13       Q. Where was the training held?

14       A. In the hall.

15       Q. Sommerville Hall?

16       A. Yes.

17       Q. It wasn't external training?

18       A. No. What we did, we went out to various places to -- in  
19           fact, two of us went out to a home in Glasgow, we were  
20           told to have a look through there. The other thing too  
21           was I was training -- when we were training there, we  
22           went to a house where children came from, just to have  
23           a look at the environment. The reason why they came  
24           into care. And that helped us a lot, it gave us a rough  
25           idea of what the children would be like.

1 LADY SMITH: Which Glasgow children's home did you visit?

2 A. We visited Overbridge to start with. At Overbridge they

3 took older children and then they were moved -- that was

4 cleared and it was Sense, I don't know if you know

5 the ... It was a group there that had children who were

6 deaf and blind.

7 LADY SMITH: So that was another Quarriers institution?

8 A. It was, yes.

9 LADY SMITH: Did you visit any home that wasn't a Quarriers

10 home?

11 A. No.

12 LADY SMITH: Were you --

13 A. I see what you mean. I did visit the house where

14 children came from.

15 LADY SMITH: I'm thinking of a children's home, an

16 institution.

17 A. No, no, I didn't, no.

18 LADY SMITH: Okay. Did any non-Quarriers person come to

19 teach you during that two-week course?

20 A. Yes, we had psychologists and outside Social Work

21 Department people.

22 LADY SMITH: Okay. Did you get any written materials to

23 keep from the two-week course?

24 A. Yes, we had that. We wrote down things that we were

25 taught.

1 LADY SMITH: So that's your own notes?

2 A. That's right, yes.

3 LADY SMITH: Were you given any written guidance, for  
4 example?

5 A. Yes, we did. Very scanty, right enough, but we were  
6 given some. The fact that it was only a fortnight  
7 training that we had, you know ...

8 LADY SMITH: Was that a Quarriers document?

9 A. Yes.

10 LADY SMITH: You took that back to the cottage?

11 A. Yes.

12 LADY SMITH: Apart from that two-week course in 1969, did  
13 you have any other or did you attend any other training  
14 courses of that sort while you were working for  
15 Quarriers?

16 A. No. No.

17 LADY SMITH: So is it really a matter of it having been  
18 on-the-job training after that?

19 A. That's right, yes.

20 LADY SMITH: Tell me one other thing: you may not remember,  
21 but you no doubt got payslips for your work at  
22 Quarriers.

23 A. Yes.

24 LADY SMITH: How was your job described on the payslip?

25 A. Fire and safety, really.

1 LADY SMITH: Right. Mr Peoples.

2 MR PEOPLES: I get the impression from the answers you've

3 just given that perhaps two weeks, you felt, was

4 a little short to learn all of these new skills --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- because you hadn't got any prior experience of

7 childcare?

8 A. No.

9 Q. And particularly residential care of vulnerable

10 children?

11 A. Certainly not.

12 Q. You had a memory that someone else received this

13 training with you at the same time.

14 A. Oh, there were a few.

15 Q. Can you remember their names?

16 A. There was a Mr [REDACTED] QMO -- it's very difficult to

17 think back on that. But I know he was there because at

18 one stage at lunchtime, him and I were playing table

19 tennis and he was cheating. So that was it.

20 Q. So you --

21 A. It was funny, right enough. But no, I would say there

22 was about seven or eight, eight of us, including some

23 house mothers.

24 Q. Those that were providing the training -- was Mr Dunbar

25 a trainer?

- 1 A. He was.
- 2 Q. As well as the person that organised the training?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. And he had a --
- 5 A. He was fully qualified, he was a social worker.
- 6 Q. As a social worker?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. And you said also there seemed to be some representation  
9 from, is it a local authority Social Work Department,  
10 some input from someone?
- 11 A. Yes, I think it was Glasgow, somebody from Glasgow that  
12 came. I don't know the person's name. But he was sort  
13 of giving us background on some of the children that  
14 would be coming into care.
- 15 Q. You also mentioned, I think, thirdly there was --  
16 you have a memory of, is it one psychologist or one or  
17 more psychologists coming to talk to you?
- 18 A. Just the one.
- 19 Q. Do you know where that person had come from?
- 20 A. She was university -- I think it was Glasgow University  
21 she came from. I don't know her name.
- 22 Q. I think at some point Quarriers employed their own  
23 psychologists did, they not?
- 24 A. Yes. They did.
- 25 Q. The first one might have been a Mrs Shaffer?

- 1 A. You're right.
- 2 Q. Is that right?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Was she there when you arrived?
- 5 A. No, she was new. She was new to -- she came after I was  
6 there ...
- 7 Q. She came afterwards?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. And subsequently she was replaced by Jean Morrison?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. You remember her?
- 12 A. Yes, I do.
- 13 Q. And I think also, just so that I've got some broad  
14 picture of the situation, when you arrived, were there  
15 any in-house social workers, childcare officers, child  
16 welfare officers in Quarriers?
- 17 A. No. This was a new -- this happened afterwards. We had  
18 social workers coming in from the various areas that the  
19 children came from.
- 20 Q. Yes. Children were placed -- when you arrived, the  
21 children were placed by the local authority, in other  
22 words by the state, and they would have a childcare  
23 officer, as it was probably called in those days?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. And such persons would visit from time to time?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. And then subsequently, they would be called  
3 social workers --
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. -- once the Social Work (Scotland) Act had been passed  
6 in 1968 and took effect --
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. -- thereafter; is that right?
- 9 A. That's right. With that, of course, Social Work  
10 Departments did -- the personnel changed and they didn't  
11 know some of the children. They knew their names but  
12 they didn't know any -- they had no background of the  
13 children. That was quite difficult to try to say: this  
14 is so-and-so. We wanted to know what the parents'  
15 background was -- and that was one of the things that  
16 Quarriers tried their best to do, was to try and get  
17 background. That was one of the concerns that possibly  
18 most of the house parents had: we had children coming  
19 into care, but knew nothing about their background,  
20 nothing at all.
- 21 Q. The point you're making, though, is that so far as these  
22 external childcare social workers were concerned, even  
23 after you became employed in 1969, you're describing  
24 a situation where there was quite often a change of  
25 social worker and a person came who had little or no



- 1 knowledge of the children they were coming to see?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Is that correct?
- 4 A. That's correct.
- 5 Q. And did that state of affairs continue for a while after
- 6 you were employed?
- 7 A. Not for a while because Quarriers themselves wanted to
- 8 have their own social work department and they recruited
- 9 social workers into it, which was a lot better because
- 10 they were able to understand the children and we were
- 11 told more and more about the child when they came in.
- 12 Before that we just didn't know the child.
- 13 Q. You may not be able to answer this question, but do you
- 14 consider that the establishment of an in-house
- 15 social work department or team within Quarriers was
- 16 a response to this state of affairs that you say was
- 17 a matter of concern that social workers didn't know the
- 18 children, the external social workers changed regularly
- 19 and were perhaps not seen as providing the support that
- 20 was needed?
- 21 A. Yes, that's true.
- 22 Q. Just going back, before I go on to that, in your time,
- 23 I take it you never saw people who were external
- 24 childcare officers? When you were in Quarriers as
- 25 a child you didn't see people like that? You didn't

- 1 talk to anyone like --
- 2 A. No, I didn't know they existed.
- 3 Q. This social work department or team that was established  
4 in the early seventies by Quarriers, am I right in  
5 thinking that it was -- was it headed up by a particular  
6 individual. Was that Alf Craigmile? Is that a name  
7 that rings a bell?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Was he the head of it? Or George Gill?
- 10 A. George Gill. I think he was. To my knowledge, there  
11 were about six.
- 12 Q. Social workers?
- 13 A. Yes. I know there were two seconded from -- I think one  
14 from America and somewhere else. They were getting  
15 background knowledge from Quarriers. That was one of  
16 the things about Quarriers: they brought people in that  
17 were interested.
- 18 Q. The names that we've been discussing, George Gill came  
19 in perhaps not long after you became employed at  
20 Quarriers; is that right?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. And he came from a local authority background?
- 23 A. Yes, Renfrew Council.
- 24 Q. And he became the principal social worker in-house?
- 25 A. Senior.

- 1 Q. Was he the most senior?
- 2 A. No, Bill Dunbar was the most senior and then --
- 3 Q. George Gill?
- 4 A. George Gill.
- 5 Q. And then there was a team of social workers in-house?
- 6 A. That's right.
- 7 Q. And did that include the American? Was that Joe
- 8 Broussard?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Did George Gill and Joe Broussard leave
- 11 Quarrier's Village in about 1978 to go to a school
- 12 called Southannan to set up a residential school?
- 13 A. Yes, I know George Gill went there because he was in
- 14 charge of that unit.
- 15 Q. Which was a new venture for Quarriers?
- 16 A. It certainly was.
- 17 Q. And it was a special residential school for children
- 18 that who I think in those days might be termed
- 19 maladjusted?
- 20 A. Something like that, yes.
- 21 Q. And some of those children were transferred from
- 22 Quarrier's Village? Do you know that?
- 23 A. Not many.
- 24 Q. But some?
- 25 A. Some, yes.

1 Q. And there were other social workers that were employed  
2 in-house?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And their job, when they became established, was to  
5 support cottages?

6 A. Yes. Yes, they had cottage -- they were allocated so  
7 many cottages, so there was -- so we could say  
8 so-and-so's our social worker. In our case it was  
9 Margaret Orr, she was our social worker.

10 Q. She was allocated to your cottage?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Was that for all the time you were in the cottage?

13 A. More or less, uh-huh, yes.

14 Q. And other social workers would be assigned or allocated  
15 to other cottages?

16 A. Yes. They went around, but Margaret was our  
17 social worker.

18 Q. And what was Margaret's role?

19 A. Well, basically she was able to know the children a lot  
20 better and just going visiting, I think. She took an  
21 interest in the children that we had.

22 Q. Would she visit the cottage regularly?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And talk to the children?

25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. On her own?
- 2 A. Oh yes. That was the thing about Quarriers. They had  
3 a group of ladies, it was called the Ladies' Meetings  
4 or ... And their job was to go round the cottages at  
5 least once a month and speak to the staff and then speak  
6 to any child who wanted to say something to them without  
7 the staff being there. So it was the Ladies' Committee  
8 and the child. That was it. So there was that. And  
9 then Mr Mortimer had another meeting for the older  
10 children and they could go -- in fact, his door was  
11 normally open all the time, and they would go if there  
12 were any complaints or anything like that.
- 13 Q. So that I understand these changes or these things that  
14 were being done at this stage. You come in in 1969.  
15 Shortly afterwards there is this social work team that's  
16 established and social workers are allocated to cottages  
17 to support the cottage house parents --
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. -- and the children.
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Over and above that, you're describing an arrangement  
22 whereby there were what you call lady visitors --
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. -- coming on a regular basis, you think roughly once an  
25 month?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Who were these ladies?

3 A. Most of them were titled: Lady Maclay, Lady Lithgow.

4 Q. The great and the good?

5 A. Yes. Again, that type of lady understood, you know,

6 children --

7 Q. Did they have --

8 A. They had their own children.

9 Q. Did they have childcare qualifications?

10 A. Oh, I don't think so. But they'd sort of be ... They

11 would be mothers of children, they would know what

12 to ... It wasn't a regime that they were wanting to

13 find things. It was basically to put children at ease

14 that they could go to them if there was any problems.

15 Q. And do you know if any child ever did go to one of these

16 ladies?

17 A. Not to my knowledge because we weren't there. It was up

18 to them. Because the staff were spoken to and we --

19 [REDACTED] herself, she would say, well, so-and-so -- one

20 thing she spoke about was there was no washing machines,

21 all the washing had to be done by hand, so the

22 Ladies' Committee were able to pass that on to the

23 bosses and say, "How about washing machines?" things

24 like that.

25 For the children it was different. If they had wee

1           worries or suggestions, provided they were reasonable,  
2           then they did something about it.

3   LADY SMITH:  These ladies, how do you know they had their  
4           own children?

5   A.  Well, I knew a few of them -- Lady Maclay I knew very  
6           well because when I was in Quarriers I went to her  
7           estate during the autumn and I pinched some apples and  
8           just ran out.  So she knew -- and I knew some of her  
9           children then.

10   LADY SMITH:  We're talking about households where they would  
11           have had help to care for their own children?

12   A.  I'd think so, yes.

13   LADY SMITH:  Probably nannies or other people?

14   A.  Yes.

15   LADY SMITH:  So they weren't actually caring for the  
16           children directly themselves?

17   A.  I wouldn't think so, but they certainly took an interest  
18           in them.

19   LADY SMITH:  I get that, but it's a bit different to them  
20           being skilled and hands-on and looking after children  
21           yourself, isn't it?

22   A.  It is.

23   MR PEOPLES:  You can't tell me I suppose whether they had  
24           any childcare training, even the two-week training that  
25           you got when you started.

- 1 A. I can't.
- 2 Q. Did they come armed with a checklist of things that they  
3 wanted to talk about and make notes and report back to  
4 a particular person in a structured way? Was that the  
5 way it was done?
- 6 A. I don't think they were armed with anything. They just  
7 came.
- 8 Q. Had a cup of tea?
- 9 A. Yes, something like that, a cup of tea. The house staff  
10 and the children, separately, were given that  
11 opportunity and if there was something on their minds,  
12 they were there, and they would report back to the  
13 office, the main office.
- 14 Q. What if the children were at school?
- 15 A. Well, they came round about teatime.
- 16 Q. Just to make sure they'd see children?
- 17 A. Yes, that was the idea of it.
- 18 Q. Did they come at weekends?
- 19 A. No, no.
- 20 Q. Did they come unannounced or was it a regular  
21 engagement?
- 22 A. I think unannounced, I think, would be the best thing to  
23 say.
- 24 Q. Is that what happened?
- 25 A. Yes, uh-huh.



1 Q. They just turned up not --

2 A. Yes. Well, the office were told that they were coming.

3 Q. Were you told they were coming?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Who was told?

6 A. [REDACTED] would be told.

7 Q. So she would know they were coming?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And in fact, perhaps prepare some tea for them?

10 A. Oh yes. And she would tell the children that they were

11 coming and if there was anything they wanted to say to

12 them, the opportunity was there.

13 Q. Would these lady visitors look at any documents when

14 they were in the cottage?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Were documents or records kept in the cottage?

17 A. Oh yes.

18 Q. What sort of records?

19 A. Well, there was a logbook and that would be punishments,

20 anyone sick, any child sick, or they went to hospitals.

21 That was the type of thing that was kept.

22 Q. Can you just describe what these logbooks looked like?

23 A. Like this (indicating).

24 Q. Like a folder?

25 A. A folder, yes.

1 Q. With notes in them?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Was there any pro forma or was it simply handwritten

4 notes on a piece of A4 paper?

5 A. Yes, the house parents wrote what actually happened.

6 Q. Entries?

7 A. And they were taken to the office once a month for

8 check-up.

9 Q. Who was checking them every month?

10 A. Mr Mortimer and the social work departments; that was

11 their responsibility.

12 Q. Was this happening from day one that you started at

13 Quarriers at least --

14 A. No, I think it was going before that.

15 Q. But it was happening when you arrived?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And you're describing a system whereby, at least in the

18 cottage you were in, some sort of file or record was

19 being maintained as a daily log --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- that record would be written up. When was it written

22 up?

23 A. Well, I didn't have anything to do with that, but [REDACTED]

24 did. She wrote it up -- and in fact there was something

25 about menus as well.

- 1 Q. Would she write it up daily?
- 2 A. I wouldn't say daily, but she would certainly have it in  
3 her mind what was to go into the logbook.
- 4 Q. What sort of things would go in?
- 5 A. The punishments, sickness, visitors that came, like  
6 parents of children, social work departments, that was  
7 all in the book. It meant that the office knew what was  
8 happening.
- 9 Q. And how many children were in the cottage when you --
- 10 A. We had 12 -- 14 at the start, that was the maximum we  
11 had.
- 12 Q. Twelve to 14 children?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Would she make an entry about all 12 or 14 children on  
15 a regular basis?
- 16 A. Only if there was problems.
- 17 Q. What sort of problems would she enter?
- 18 A. If the child had problems outside, you know, school and  
19 things like that.
- 20 Q. Behavioural problems?
- 21 A. Yes, illness.
- 22 Q. What if the child ran away?
- 23 A. I think to my knowledge, we didn't have anyone run away.
- 24 Q. If they had run away?
- 25 A. That would have to be reported.

- 1 Q. If they were punished, would that be recorded?
- 2 A. Yes, it would be, but I don't think they'd be punished  
3 when they ran away.
- 4 Q. If they were punished at all?
- 5 A. Yes, that was recorded.
- 6 Q. All punishments were recorded, whatever type or form  
7 they took?
- 8 A. Yes. Basically, the child was either sent to bed early  
9 or, if it was a summer night, they stayed in or  
10 a television programme they liked, they weren't allowed  
11 to watch that. That was the type of punishments that  
12 they had.
- 13 Q. And this was all recorded?
- 14 A. Oh yes.
- 15 Q. If a child appeared --
- 16 A. I wouldn't say that this was the punishment, it would  
17 just say that they were just punished.
- 18 Q. It wouldn't be recorded how they were punished?
- 19 A. No, no.
- 20 Q. Whether a particular form of punishment was used?
- 21 A. Uh-huh.
- 22 Q. That wasn't recorded?
- 23 A. No, it was just to say that they were punished.
- 24 LADY SMITH: Why not record the nature of the punishment?
- 25 A. I don't know. I suppose different house parents had

1 different ways of punishing people. But I know in our  
2 house, it was basically for anyone bullying or stuff  
3 like that.

4 LADY SMITH: I get the reason for the punishment, but I was  
5 asking about the nature of the punishment. Wasn't it  
6 important to keep a record of that?

7 A. Yes, I could be wrong, it could have happened. I didn't  
8 do the book at all. [REDACTED] would be able to tell you.

9 MR PEOPLES: But you see the point that Lady Smith is  
10 making?

11 A. Yes, I do.

12 Q. There's not really much point in just saying a child was  
13 punished if you don't say what happened and the  
14 circumstances in which they were punished?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. It's not very informative to the person who receives it  
17 every month just to see that.

18 A. No.

19 Q. Would you agree?

20 A. I certainly would, yes. But [REDACTED] may have been more  
21 accurate than what I've described. That was her  
22 responsibility.

23 Q. Why did she have this responsibility? Was it because  
24 someone had told her she had to keep this record?

25 A. Every cottage had it. That was the regulation.

- 1 Q. How do you know it was the regulation?
- 2 A. From headquarters. I wouldn't think that every house  
3 parent would be writing a book like this if it wasn't  
4 something that had to be done. It gave the office an  
5 idea of how the place was run and what the house parents  
6 were doing.
- 7 Q. And these books, as you understood, would be provided to  
8 the office basically every month by each cottage --
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. -- for examination?
- 11 A. It was known as a logbook, yes.
- 12 Q. And if they were recording significant matters,  
13 including matters of punishment and other significant  
14 events and behavioural problems, presumably they would  
15 rapidly fill up, would they not?
- 16 A. Well, no. What would happen was when they went there  
17 into the office, the books, they were looked at and the  
18 director of childcare would maybe summon the  
19 house parent to come and explain more, just what  
20 happened.
- 21 Sometimes, as Lady Smith said, it was quite -- there  
22 wasn't a sort of definite way of putting it down. So  
23 maybe this is why they were asked to come to the office,  
24 to explain it.
- 25 Q. That's the question I was coming to next. There wasn't

1           any guidance or instruction given as to how the records  
2           should be compiled, what information about punishments  
3           or other matters should be recorded?

4           A. There was. There was the illness of a child, visitation  
5           of a child -- that's parents or whatever -- and  
6           punishments.

7           Q. Yes, but I think the point I'm asking about is that,  
8           yes, make a record about a punishment, but if that's the  
9           sole instruction, it's not very illuminating as to what  
10          precisely you're meant to record. What I'm asking is,  
11          if you're able to help me, did the house parents get  
12          clear instructions as to what information about  
13          punishments should be recorded?

14          A. I would well imagine so.

15          Q. You say you imagine so.

16          A. Yes. I wouldn't know because I had nothing to do with  
17          the books; ██████████ was the person in charge of the book.

18          Q. And again, going back to a question, and maybe I put it  
19          badly, if a record was being kept on a regular basis and  
20          being written up, even if it wasn't daily, and a file  
21          was being used, one would assume that the file would  
22          rapidly fill up and you'd need to start a new file.

23          A. Well, after a monthly -- when the book was handed in,  
24          there was a line drawn underneath to say that it had  
25          been looked at or whatever questions were asked, and

1           then it started again in the next -- just carried on as  
2           normal.

3       Q.   But the book would be returned?

4       A.   Yes.

5       Q.   Without anything taken out of it?

6       A.   As I said earlier on, if there was a problem, the  
7           director of child care wasn't happy with it, he'd summon  
8           the house parents to come.

9       Q.   You're describing a process where the book would be  
10           handed in, it would be read by possibly the  
11           superintendent, someone from social work, they would  
12           draw a line, would they countersign it, initial it?

13      A.   That I wouldn't know. I couldn't say for that.

14      Q.   Then the book --

15      A.   It'd certainly be returned to the cottage, yes, and they  
16           may have comments on it.

17      Q.   But it would be returned as it was delivered?

18      A.   Yes.

19      Q.   And then what happened when the file got too thick and  
20           you had to start a new file?

21      A.   I don't think that happened.

22      Q.   But you were there.

23      A.   It wasn't a sort of detailed everyday detail, it was  
24           just things that happened out of the ordinary.

25      Q.   So it wasn't really a daily log at all, it was --



1 A. It was a logbook. That was all it was called.

2 Q. To some extent it would be a matter of what people  
3 considered to be significant enough to record?

4 A. Precisely.

5 Q. But you seem to have a memory that there weren't volumes  
6 of logbooks in your time --

7 A. I don't know.

8 Q. -- kept.

9 A. No, I don't recall that.

10 Q. Was there just one book in all your time as you  
11 remember?

12 A. Yes, it was just the one.

13 Q. There must have been an awful lot of children passing  
14 through your cottage in all the time you and [REDACTED] were  
15 looking after children?

16 A. Different children, no. We were quite privileged to  
17 have children -- we had them from start, basically,  
18 until they were to leave the cottage.

19 Q. Well, okay.

20 A. We were lucky in that way.

21 Q. I follow that.

22 A. But other cottages ...

23 Q. If [REDACTED] was a house parent from -- and I understand it  
24 was perhaps from 1968, before you joined, when she  
25 became a house mother.

- 1 A. Uh-huh.
- 2 Q. And she continued to be a house mother until, what, 1974  
3 or 1975?
- 4 A. 1974.
- 5 Q. So that's six years.
- 6 A. Yes. After that, [REDACTED] became [REDACTED] because we  
7 moved out of the cottage, because we had our own two  
8 children and we felt that -- [REDACTED]  
9 [REDACTED]  
10 [REDACTED]  
11 [REDACTED] she felt it would be wrong  
12 to continue. That's why we asked to be moved out of the  
13 house. So we got a house within the village.
- 14 Q. I suppose the point I'm making is that from 1968 to  
15 1974, as a house mother, that's getting on for 2,000  
16 days of childcare with perhaps 10, 12, 14 children.  
17 Common sense might suggest that if one is making a daily  
18 log of only significant incidents, you'd build up quite  
19 a considerable volume of records.
- 20 A. No, it wouldn't be. What you're trying to say to me was  
21 that everything had to be recorded. It didn't.
- 22 Q. No, I'm not saying that --
- 23 A. That didn't -- it was only the things that [REDACTED] felt  
24 should be recorded.
- 25 Q. Not the things that [REDACTED] was told ought to be recorded

1 by management?

2 A. Well, there were different things happening. We had  
3 different children coming in. No, this time she was  
4 using her common sense. She was a childcare -- she was  
5 a proper childcare person. She did a course in  
6 university.

7 Q. And was trained to keep records?


8 A. Very much so, yes, so she knew what she was wanting and  
9 she knew just how the office worked.

10 Q. But your memory, so far as you can now recall, is that  
11 between 1969 and 1974, there was perhaps simply a single  
12 volume for that period?

13 A. It could have just been a few lines done, you know. It  
14 just depended on things.

15 Q. Okay.

16 LADY SMITH: When the book or the file was handed in for  
17 checking, how long did it take from then for it to be  
18 returned to the cottage? How long was it away from the  
19 cottage?

20 A. I don't think it would be too long. 

21 

22 LADY SMITH: So is your memory no more than you know it went  
23 away for a check once a month?

24 A. That's true, yes.

25 LADY SMITH: And it would come back with a line drawn under?

1 A. Yes, to say that it had been looked at -- and if there  
2 were any problems, then the house parent would be  
3 summoned to the office to give a more detailed account.

4 LADY SMITH: And you didn't yourself enter anything in this  
5 log?

6 A. No.

7 LADY SMITH: If you were involved in something with a child  
8 or aware of a problem with a child that ought to be  
9 in the log, what did you do?

10 A. [REDACTED] would put that in the logbook.

11 LADY SMITH: You would tell her?

12 A. Yes.

13 LADY SMITH: Because she'd get your account of whatever it  
14 was and she'd write it down?

15 A. Yes.

16 LADY SMITH: All right.

17 MR PEOPLES: Just looking for the moment at the period from  
18 1969 to 1974, what were the child protection  
19 arrangements in that period to protect children from  
20 abuse, to your knowledge?

21 A. Well, I think it was quite stringent, I think. There  
22 was ... In fact, in the early days I don't recall  
23 anything being spoken about child protection, apart from  
24 how house parents should protect a child.

25 Q. What was said about how they should protect them?

1 A. That there was no danger, they weren't in any danger in  
2 any way like that.

3 Q. But what practical advice and guidance was given as to  
4 how one could protect children from danger, including  
5 the risk of abuse?

6 A. Well, we were taught that, you know, to look out for  
7 things like that.

8 Q. Look out for what?

9 A. If there was anyone being abused. But to my knowledge,  
10 I didn't see anyone or know anyone being abused.

11 Q. That's a separate question. The question I'm asking at  
12 the moment is simply: what training was given, what  
13 guidance and what the arrangements were that would  
14 ensure that people were not abused? Can you tell me  
15 about that? You seem to have a memory that something  
16 was said.

17 A. I'm a bit lost on this one. I just don't know what  
18 you're trying to get at.

19 Q. Well, what was said --

20 A. You were talking about the safety of the child?

21 Q. Yes.

22 A. Well, every precaution was taken.

23 Q. What precautions?

24 A. Well, we just basically watched that nothing unusual was  
25 happening.

- 1 Q. In the period of this two-week training that you  
2 received, that you described earlier, was this matter  
3 covered?
- 4 A. No, it wasn't.
- 5 Q. So how would you know what should be done and how you  
6 could best protect children from danger, including the  
7 risk of abuse?
- 8 A. Well, in my case, there was a case where two boys were  
9 in a sexual act and I reported it to the social work  
10 department and they told me that it was a growing-up  
11 process and I wasn't too happy about that at all.
- 12 Q. Is this the in-house social work team?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. Not the external social work --
- 15 A. No, it was the internal.
- 16 Q. So that was a situation where you came across something  
17 you reported it and --
- 18 A. I didn't see it, it was my wife that saw. I came back  
19 and I spoke to the two boys and I told them that I was  
20 going to see the social work department about it. But  
21 I was quite annoyed that the response was, "Ach, it's  
22 just a growing-up phase".
- 23 Q. Was there any set procedure or guidance given to you as  
24 to what you should do in particular situations to  
25 protect children from the risk of abuse or --

- 1 A. No, not really, no.
- 2 Q. Not really?
- 3 A. No.
- 4 Q. So I suppose it would follow that if you weren't made  
5 aware of any particular arrangements then it must follow  
6 that the children themselves would not be aware of what  
7 arrangements were in place to protect them from danger,  
8 including the risk of abuse? They wouldn't know  
9 because --
- 10 A. No, I don't think so.
- 11 Q. So they wouldn't have any real idea of what was being  
12 done to protect them, if anything?
- 13 A. I don't think so, but there was precautions, right  
14 enough, there's no doubt about it -- like when  
15 I reported the incident that [REDACTED] saw.
- 16 Q. You heard about something and you felt that the right  
17 thing to do was to report it --
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. -- and you did that. But you didn't do that because you  
20 were aware that there was some set procedure that  
21 required you to report it.
- 22 A. No, no. No, there wasn't.
- 23 LADY SMITH: You said a moment ago you spoke to the two boys  
24 concerned.
- 25 A. Yes.

1 LADY SMITH: That was before you spoke to the social worker?

2 A. Yes.

3 LADY SMITH: What did you say to them?

4 A. I just said to them that I was going to report them to

5 the social work department because that was the right

6 thing to do. And the following morning, I went to the

7 social work department and I spoke to the social worker,

8 and that's what I was told: ach, it's just a growing-up

9 phase.

10 LADY SMITH: Did you, your wife, or a social worker

11 thereafter give these boys any guidance as to what was

12 or was not appropriate behaviour?

13 A. Not to my knowledge.

14 LADY SMITH: Did it not occur to you that that needed to be

15 done?

16 A. Well, I did say that to the social work department,

17 I said I didn't like the answer that I was given, that

18 it was just a growing-up phase.

19 LADY SMITH: So you left it at that?

20 A. I couldn't do anything else; they were the experts.

21 MR PEOPLES: Well, does that mean you weren't an expert in

22 these matters, despite the training that you'd been

23 given?

24 A. The fact that I reported it, I knew that something

25 was -- you know.



- 1 Q. I think you were saying you didn't feel you had the  
2 expertise to deal with this situation.
- 3 A. The answer I was given by the social work department  
4 didn't -- you know, it didn't help me at all.
- 5 Q. I follow that, but all I'm saying is that whatever  
6 answer you got, you didn't feel equipped to deal with  
7 the situation because you lacked the expertise and would  
8 it not follow that therefore you didn't have the  
9 expertise because you hadn't received the training that  
10 needed to deal with that type of situation?
- 11 A. Yes, and it never occurred either -- the situation had  
12 never occurred before.
- 13 Q. Well, that's not a reason to be -- people are trained,  
14 and you'll know this better than anyone with fire  
15 safety, for example, to deal with situations that might  
16 arise that may never have arisen before. That's the  
17 purpose of training, isn't it, to equip you to deal --
- 18 A. Yes, I agree with you.
- 19 Q. But that wasn't happening in this context?
- 20 A. No.
- 21 Q. So you didn't have the equipment or the tools to be able  
22 to handle this situation and you didn't feel you got the  
23 necessary support on this occasion?
- 24 A. That's true, yes.
- 25 Q. Am I right in thinking, and just correct me if I'm

- 1 wrong, that the relationship between the in-house  
2 social workers and the house parents wasn't one which  
3 was one of line management, they weren't your line  
4 managers? They couldn't instruct you to do anything?
- 5 A. No, no, no.
- 6 Q. Your line manager was whom?
- 7 A. The assistant director and the director; I was  
8 answerable to them.
- 9 Q. So a social worker couldn't come in and tell you what to  
10 do or tell [REDACTED] what to do?
- 11 A. No, not to my knowledge.
- 12 Q. They could give you advice, if you sought it, or they  
13 could offer support if you were prepared to take it?
- 14 A. I thought that would be the right thing to do, but it  
15 never happened, when the report was -- when I went to  
16 the office and reported it. It was just a basically:  
17 ach, it's just a growing-up ...
- 18 Q. Was this matter, which obviously you treated as  
19 significant, was this recorded in the daily log?
- 20 A. Oh yes, it would be, yes.
- 21 Q. You recorded it, did you, or [REDACTED]?
- 22 A. [REDACTED] would record that, yes.
- 23 Q. But you really heard nothing more about the matter after  
24 that?
- 25 A. No.

1 LADY SMITH: And it didn't occur to you to speak to your  
2 line manager, which you say was the assistant director?

3 A. They'd obviously know about it.

4 LADY SMITH: You say they would obviously know about it.

5 A. Yes. Because the social work department would pass it  
6 on to them.

7 LADY SMITH: Did you ask the social work --

8 A. I wouldn't know whether it was or not.

9 LADY SMITH: So you assumed that they would tell the  
10 assistant director?

11 A. Yes.

12 MR PEOPLES: But it would have been -- presumably, if the  
13 matter was recorded and presumably you told [REDACTED] -- or  
14 she told you, did she?

15 A. She did.

16 Q. So you're assuming she wrote it down?

17 A. Uh-huh.

18 Q. Then it would go at some point to the office, be seen by  
19 the superintendent, someone in social work, and it might  
20 have been a situation where it called for a discussion  
21 with the house parents about the whole situation.

22 A. Well, it certainly wasn't discussed with the  
23 house parents. It may have been discussed within the  
24 social work department, but I don't think so. I think  
25 it was just taken as a one-off.

1 Q. Because I suppose from what you're saying, if, for  
2 example, ██████ had been summoned to the office to  
3 discuss the matter, it having been recorded, and had  
4 some discussion, she would have talked to you about  
5 that?

6 A. Yes; she wasn't summoned at all.

7 Q. You know that then?

8 A. I do, because I went to the social work department, and  
9 that was it. There was no comeback after that.

10 Q. Just to be absolutely clear, although you were  
11 dissatisfied perhaps with the response you got, you  
12 didn't see fit to go to your line manager and say,  
13 "I want to talk to you about this, I'm not happy with  
14 what I've been told, and I want some advice or some  
15 guidance or instruction"? You didn't do that?

16 A. I assumed the social work department would do that.  
17 They would speak to the assistant director.

18 LADY SMITH: Were the boys punished?

19 A. No.

20 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples, it's just after 11.30.

21 John, we normally have a break at about this stage  
22 in the morning, so we'll stop now for a 15-minute break  
23 and sit again after that.

24 (11.34 am)

25 (A short break)

1 (11.49 am)

2 LADY SMITH: Are you ready to carry on, John?

3 A. Thank you.

4 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples.

5 MR PEOPLES: John, if I could just ask you another question

6 about this record-keeping system that you've told us.

7 There was what called the logbook.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. You've explained the procedure that was in operation

10 between, I take it, 1969 and 1974. I think, from your

11 experience, that was when you would be aware of what the

12 process was; is that right?

13 A. Yes, and not before that, I didn't know.

14 Q. Or afterwards?

15 A. Or after.

16 Q. Apart from the logbooks, we are aware, I think from

17 Quarriers, that Quarriers would maintain either a family

18 file or a children's file for either families or

19 individual children. Was that something you knew about

20 in your time at Quarriers, that they kept such records?

21 A. As a child or ...?

22 Q. No, I'm more thinking as an employee.

23 A. Yes, I knew there was records.

24 Q. Where were these files kept?

25 A. Down in Mr Dunbar's office.

1 Q. Mr Dunbar's office?

2 A. Yes, they were in cabinets.

3 Q. Would a house parent have access to them?

4 A. That I'm not sure of.

5 Q. Do you ever remember seeing a children's file?

6 A. Oh yes, my own.

7 Q. Your own? Yes, but leaving aside your own, which maybe

8 was of interest to you, for obvious reasons --

9 A. No, I didn't.

10 Q. You talked about the logbook. You say that it was [REDACTED]

11 that would write up the log, although you would discuss

12 matters and you might tell her about things that you'd

13 expect her to put in the log. So far as these files are

14 concerned, did you ever see a children's file relating

15 to a child in one of the cottages that [REDACTED] and

16 you were the house parents of, if you like?

17 A. No, I didn't.

18 Q. You didn't?

19 A. No.

20 Q. But so far as you understand, their general location was

21 the office?

22 A. That's right, yes.

23 Q. In Mr Dunbar's office?

24 A. They were in files in alphabetical order, so it was easy

25 to do that. The reason why I know they were there is

1           because I had to inspect the office.

2           Q. Yes, so you'd at least know where they were located and  
3           what they were?

4           A. Yes.

5           Q. But you wouldn't have a reason, as the fire officer, to  
6           look at them?

7           A. No, none whatsoever.

8           Q. So far as the logbooks are concerned, you've told us  
9           that they would, on a regular basis, monthly, be taken  
10          to the office, read, and returned to the cottage. Do  
11          you know whether the information that was recorded  
12          in the logbooks was to any extent transferred to  
13          a child's file, if it related to that child?

14          A. I wouldn't think so.

15          Q. You wouldn't think so?

16          A. No.

17          Q. Why would that not be so?

18          A. Having had a look at my own file, it was basically  
19          telling folks where I was born, who my parents were, and  
20          basically how I came into Quarriers. That was it.

21          Q. So going back --

22          A. There was no other information or up-to-date  
23          information.

24          Q. I follow that, and I think perhaps your record isn't  
25          perhaps unique for that period of time. In the thirties

1           and forties perhaps the records were somewhat sparse.

2           A. Oh, they were, yes.

3           Q. And you are saying you know your record was not

4           particularly informative?

5           A. That's true.

6           Q. Obviously, we're moving on to the late sixties, early

7           seventies, and you have described that at least there's

8           a process where logbooks were being written up and

9           examined on a regular basis by the main office and then

10          returned. All I'm saying, and you may not be able to

11          help me, is whether information which was considered by

12          the house parent to be significant enough to record was

13          transferred from the logbook to the child's file.

14          A. No, I couldn't answer that at all.

15          Q. Would you have expected that information, if it was

16          relating to a particular child, to be transferred?

17          A. This I wouldn't know because I'm talking about my own

18          file. It was very sparse, but I wouldn't know what

19          happened afterwards, no.

20          Q. No, but in your time as a house parent, and [REDACTED]'s

21          time, you know that logbooks were sent to the office --

22          A. Yes.

23          Q. -- and were looked at and returned. But you don't know

24          whether anything in that logbook found its way into

25          a child's file --



1 A. No.

2 Q. -- at that time?

3 A. I don't.

4 Q. And no one told you whether it did or not?

5 A. No, they didn't, no.

6 LADY SMITH: Although it does seem that that system would  
7 have enabled significant entries in the logbook to be  
8 transferred into the children's file.

9 A. Yes. I don't think it did happen. It could very well  
10 have, but I had no reason to go into other people's  
11 files.

12 LADY SMITH: I appreciate that, and your earlier  
13 understanding was the logbooks were handed into the  
14 office simply to be checked and signed off and  
15 underlined, ready to go on to the next period --

16 A. Yes.

17 LADY SMITH: -- after they'd been there. I see.

18 MR PEOPLES: But if we're in an era where -- and I think you  
19 said this earlier -- one of the things that changed in  
20 Quarriers was that perhaps there was far more attempt to  
21 obtain some background information about the child who  
22 was taken into care.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. There wouldn't be much point in doing that unless that  
25 information was then used for the benefit of the child;

1 do you follow?

2 A. I do, but I don't ... The fact that I wasn't party to  
3 anything like that ... I do know that in my report,  
4 when that question was asked me, I felt there was  
5 insufficient information on the child when they came  
6 into care. So we had to really start from the beginning  
7 to find out what the child was like.

8 Q. In the period of time from 1969 to 1974, you still felt  
9 you weren't getting enough information about the child?

10 A. Earlier. I would say it changed then because the  
11 internal social work department then were able to give  
12 us information, but before that, no, we had no idea.

13 Q. When the in-house social work department was  
14 established, is it your position or your recollection  
15 that perhaps after that you were getting a bit more  
16 background information on children that were in your  
17 cottage?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Through the social worker?

20 A. Through the social worker, yes. But that was very late  
21 on. It was basically before I retired when it came into  
22 full force.

23 Q. I see. You retired in 1978?

24 A. Yes -- well, no. I was out of the cottage in 1974, so  
25 I had nothing to do with the cottages then.

1 LADY SMITH: Can I just be clear about that? You moved into  
2 the cottage where your wife was already living and  
3 working as a house mother --

4 A. Yes, that's right.

5 LADY SMITH: -- in 1969?

6 A. Yes.

7 LADY SMITH: And you and she moved out of that cottage in  
8 1974?

9 A. That's true.

10 LADY SMITH: Was that the end of either of you working as  
11 a house parent?

12 A. Yes, it was.

13 LADY SMITH: But you carried on as the fire and safety  
14 officer?

15 A. I did, yes.

16 LADY SMITH: Earlier you said you carried on until you were  
17 aged 65; is that right?

18 A. Yes.

19 LADY SMITH: So that would take you right up to 1998.

20 A. That's right.

21 LADY SMITH: Living in the other house in Quarriers'  
22 grounds.

23 A. Yes.

24 MR PEOPLES: So you were working for Quarriers until 1998?

25 A. Yes, I was, until I retired.

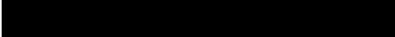
1 Q. But you ceased to be what we would call a house parent  
2 in 1974?

3 A. That's true, yes.

4 Q. So you had 24 years working for Quarriers, but not being  
5 involved as a house parent?

6 A. That's right.

7 Q. In that 24-year period, were you living in a cottage?

8 A. No, we had a house, it was known as 

9 

10

11

12


13 Q. Was that a property owned by Quarriers?

14 A. It was.


15 Q. Was it rented then by you?

16 A. No, it was ... I was there until I actually retired,  
17 I was ... No, I'm getting this wrong now, hold on.

18 (Pause)

19 When  and I retired, we moved to this house,  
20 but we didn't pay rent because I was still doing bits  
21 and pieces for Quarriers.

22 Q. I'd better make sure we've got this absolutely right.

23 If we look at where you were -- in 1969 you had married  
24 , she was already a house parent. Did you say she  
25 was a house parent in a particular cottage?

1 A. Cottage [REDACTED]

2 Q. There came a time when you moved to cottage [REDACTED]

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Was that between 1969 and 1974?

5 A. It was in between that; [REDACTED] would possibly give you

6 the right date.

7 Q. But it was in that period?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. I think we think that maybe from around 1970 or 1971

10 until 1974, you would be in cottage [REDACTED]

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. [REDACTED] at some point changes her role with Quarriers from

13 being a house mother, 'is that around 1974/1975?

14 A. That's right.

15 Q. [REDACTED]

16 A. [REDACTED]

17 [REDACTED]

18 [REDACTED]

19 [REDACTED]

20 Q. [REDACTED]

21 A. [REDACTED]

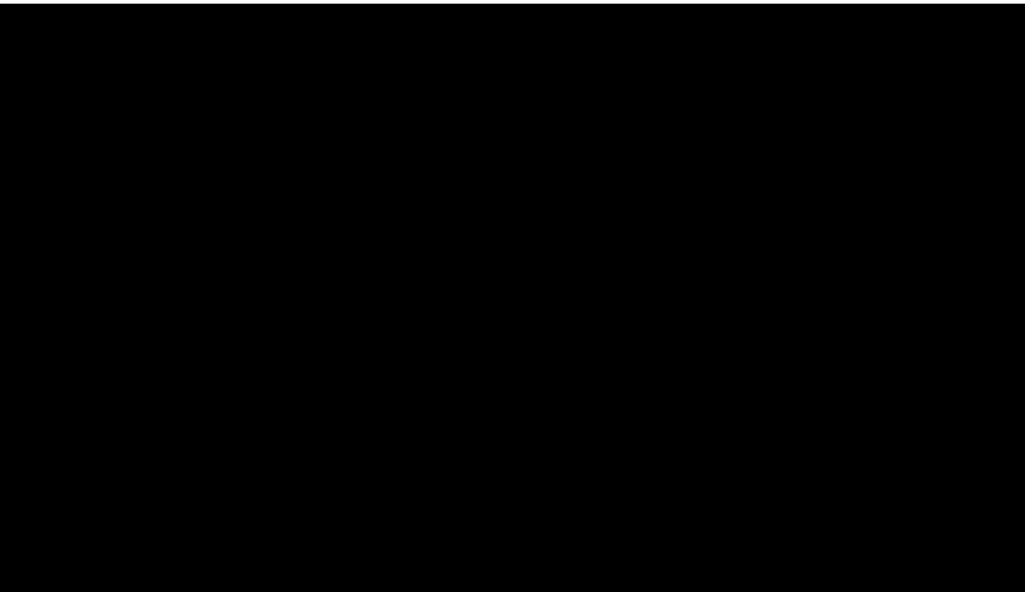
22 Q. [REDACTED]

23 [REDACTED]

24 A. [REDACTED]

25 [REDACTED]

1 Q.



2

3

4 A.

5 Q.

6 A.

7 Q.

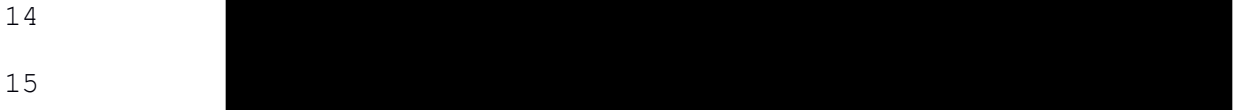
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9 A.

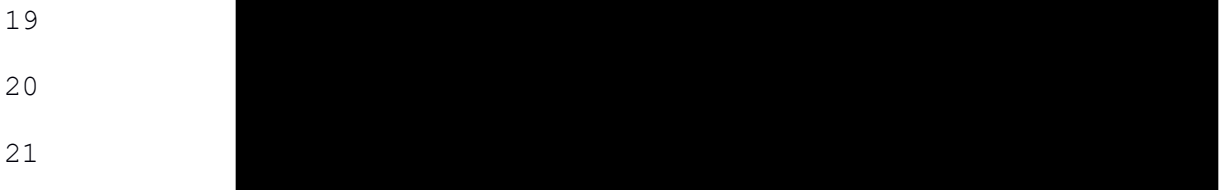
10 Q. I suppose what I'm then going to get to is where you had  
11 been before was cottage [redacted]

12 A. That's right.

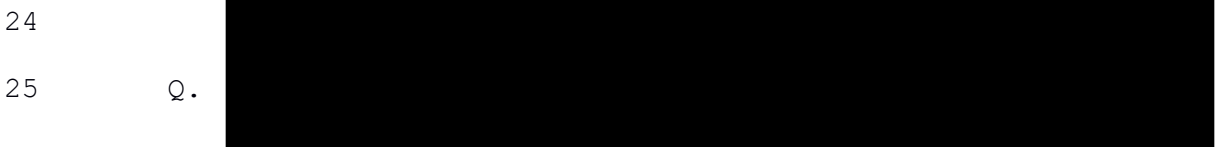
13 Q. And at what point did you leave cottage [redacted] to go to



16 A. No, no, it was before that. Both of us went to  
17 Mr Mortimer and we were a wee bit concerned about our  
18 own children, [redacted]



22 [redacted] I was still fire and safety  
23 officer [redacted]



25 Q.

1

2 A.

3 Q.

4 A.

5 Q.

6 A.

7 Q. I take it then that when you moved out of cottage some  
8 other house parents would have taken over that cottage?

9 A. Now ...

10 Q. You may not recall who they were.

11 A. No, I don't recall who took over.

12 Q. But someone would have taken over?

13 A. No, I think the children were sent to different  
14 cottages.

15 Q. You think it just closed?

16 A. Yes, I think it did. I'm not quite sure.

17

18

19

20

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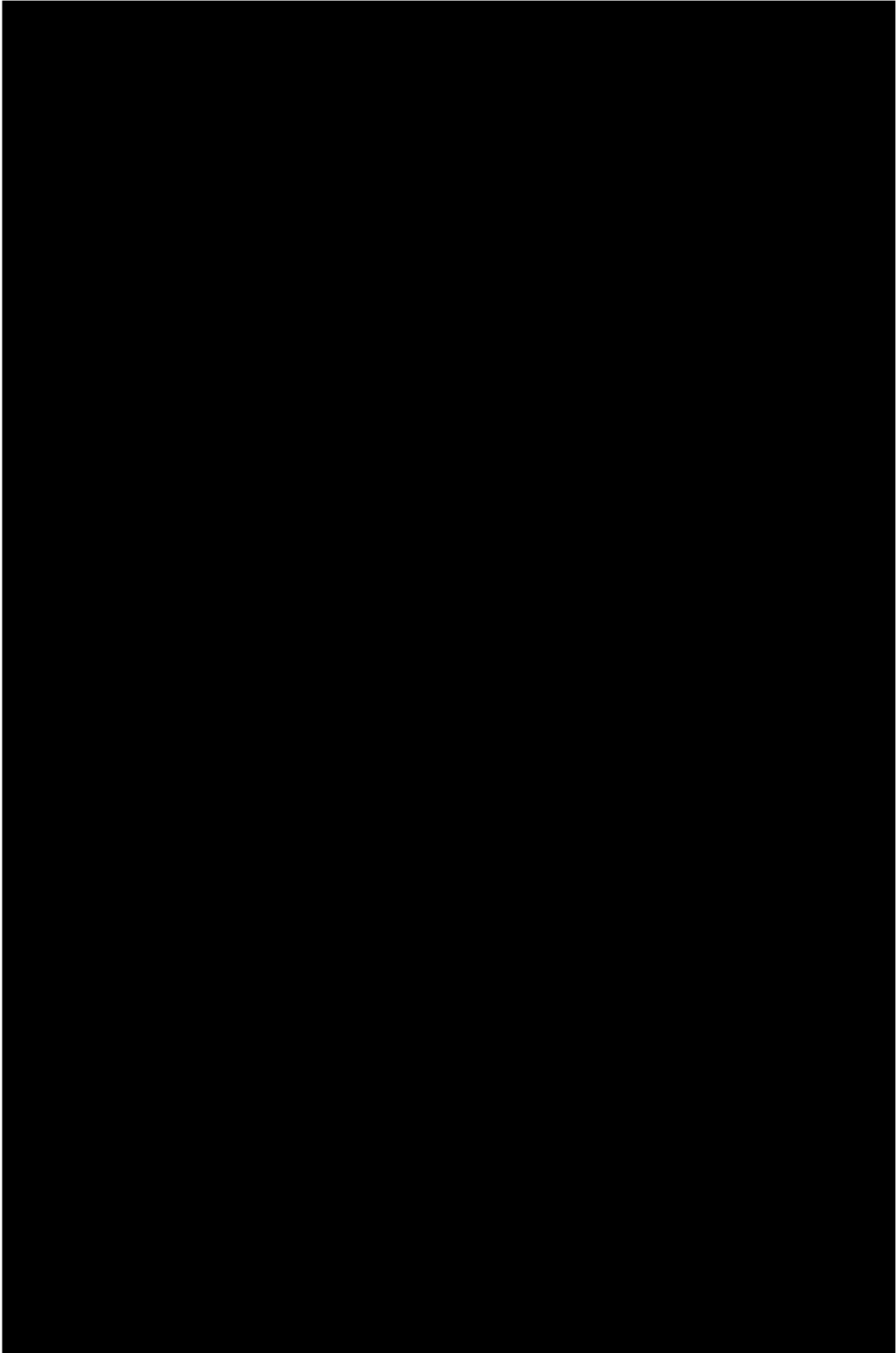
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3 Q.  
4  
5 A.  
6 Q.  
7  
8 A.  
9 Q.  
10 A.  
11 Q.  
12 A.  
13 Q.  
14 A.  
15 Q.  
16 A.  
17 Q.  
18 A.  
19 Q.  
20 A.  
21 Q.  
22 A.  
23  
24 Q.  
25 A.





1 Q. [REDACTED]

2

3 A. [REDACTED]

4 Q. [REDACTED]

5

6 A. It probably would be about the eighties right enough --  
7 it didn't last too long, unfortunately, because  
8 Quarriers took it on and then passed it on to Gavin, and  
9 he was solely responsible for it. He just couldn't  
10 afford to keep it, so the folks had to be transferred to  
11 various units. Some to -- we had a ...

12 Campbell Snowden, that had elderly folks in. But that  
13 belonged to -- [REDACTED]

14 [REDACTED] It was an organisation. One or two went there.  
15 Others went back to their town, Greenock, places like  
16 that.

17 Q. You don't need to worry too much. I think we'll hear  
18 some evidence from the organisation that I think, by the  
19 late 1970s, there were a lot of changes taking place.  
20 The number of children were decreasing for various  
21 reasons, which I don't think you need to concern  
22 yourself with today, but there was some diversification  
23 and some of the buildings were being used for other  
24 purposes?

25 A. That's true, it completely changed. Because the park

1           itself was used for housing, the Barratt Homes built  
2           there, and also on [REDACTED] we had a pets'  
3           corner which I was responsible for, and that was closed  
4           down as well for houses to be built by Barratt. It was  
5           a completely different scenario altogether.

6           Q. Effectively, they were selling off assets --

7           A. That's right.

8           Q. -- to raise some money and they were taking in fewer  
9           children and they were offering different services, some  
10          for the elderly or some more specialist services at  
11          Quarrier's Village. That sort of thing was happening?

12          A. That's right.

13          Q. And they were also opening up the special school at  
14          Southannan?

15          A. Yes.

16          Q. Which was another initiative at that time?

17          A. Yes.

18          Q. And you remember all of that kind of --

19          A. I do remember that, yes.

20          Q. So it was a period of considerable change?

21          A. Absolutely, yes.

22          Q. And the days that you remember of large numbers of  
23          children in the village in the thirties and forties, by  
24          that stage there were a lot less children in the village  
25          being looked after?

1 A. Oh yes. The number of children went down from, say,  
2 about 14 to 8. And then gradually cottages were closing  
3 down, as you said, and they were used for other  
4 purposes.

5 Q. Can I ask you this: from the time that you moved out of  
6 cottage [REDACTED] which was about 1974 or thereabouts.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Until you retired in 1998 -- I may have said 1978 this  
9 morning, perhaps I should have meant 1998.

10 LADY SMITH: I think you meant 1998.

11 MR PEOPLES: It crossed my mind.

12 LADY SMITH: I think John gave us a date of birth of 1933,  
13 and if you add 65 to that, you get to 1998.

14 MR PEOPLES: Perhaps we can just clarify that at this stage.  
15 So between 1974 and 1998, you were living [REDACTED]

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And your job was?

18 A. Fire and safety.

19 Q. And that was the job throughout?

20 A. In fact, health and safety.

21 Q. So it was slightly wider than just simply fire safety it  
22 was generally health and safety issues?

23 A. That's right, yes.

24 Q. [REDACTED]

25

- 1 A. [REDACTED]
- 2 Q. If I could focus on the period from 1969 to 1974, you  
3 initially were in cottage [REDACTED] but you moved to cottage [REDACTED]
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. And [REDACTED]'s the house mother and you're her husband and  
6 you're effectively a house parent as well as your fire  
7 officer role?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Did you have any other roles and responsibilities  
10 in that period that you took on?
- 11 A. I was the BB.
- 12 Q. What did you do in the BB?
- 13 A. Well, we had quite a lot of lads there. We had a junior  
14 section, what was known as the Life Boys, and we had the  
15 senior section, which I was responsible for.
- 16 Q. So were you effectively the leader of the Quarriers BB?
- 17 A. Not to start with. There was a man called Mr Smith was  
18 in charge, and he -- I don't know what happened, he just  
19 disappeared and I was asked to take the role on. I went  
20 to the BB headquarters to be trained as a captain of the  
21 BB.
- 22 Q. So you were the captain of the Quarriers BB?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. Was that during the time that you were in cottage [REDACTED]
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. And beyond?
- 2 A. Beyond, yes. Well, until, I would say, when we moved  
3 out, because the children were getting -- the children  
4 were leaving and it wasn't really worth it. We finished  
5 up with about 11 boys and it wasn't worth, and what we  
6 did, we contacted Paisley battalion to say that we  
7 longer existed.
- 8 Q. So it was disbanded at some point?
- 9 A. It was, yes.
- 10 Q. Did the remaining boys -- would be attached to the  
11 Paisley BB?
- 12 A. Not necessarily, no.
- 13 Q. Did some --
- 14 A. No, I don't think they did.
- 15 Q. It just disbanded?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 LADY SMITH: Where were the BB headquarters that you went  
18 to?
- 19 A. It was Paisley. We went to -- now, I don't know what  
20 the training thing ... It was somewhere in Lanark.  
21 I just forget what the place was. That was the training  
22 area.
- 23 LADY SMITH: The training was in Lanark, not in Paisley?
- 24 A. Not in Paisley; Paisley was the battalion.
- 25 LADY SMITH: How long did that training last?

1 A. I think it was a week.

2 LADY SMITH: Did you have to --

3 A. That was to be transferred from lieutenant to captain of  
4 the BB.

5 LADY SMITH: Were you trained before you became lieutenant?

6 A. Well, it was just basically while I was in the BB with  
7 Mr Smith, I was trained then, but when I went to ...  
8 This was the place where everyone was trained to be  
9 captain or whatever.

10 LADY SMITH: Right. So you got your captain's training  
11 somewhere in Lanark. In the town of Lanark?

12 A. I wish I knew the name because it would help. I just  
13 can't think.

14 LADY SMITH: Don't worry. If you comes back to you later,  
15 you can tell me.

16 A. [REDACTED]

17 LADY SMITH: It was maybe about a week?

18 A. It was about a week, yes.

19 LADY SMITH: Did you stay away overnight for the training?

20 A. We stayed at Carronvale --

21 LADY SMITH: What was included in the training?

22 A. We were taught basically how to organise games, how  
23 to -- basically how the BB ran, what it meant. Our job  
24 was to transfer that to the boys that we were in charge  
25 of.

- 1 MR PEOPLES: Was there any child protection training?
- 2 A. No, there wasn't. No, no.
- 3 Q. In your role as the BB lieutenant and captain, I take it  
4 then that the Quarriers group would, from time to time,  
5 go to various camps and other places as part of the BB  
6 activities. Did that happen?
- 7 A. We did -- we went -- not in my time, no. Because camps  
8 seem to be out of order now. We went to houses. We  
9 went to Girvan or Turnberry. That was the two places.
- 10 Q. But not BB camps?
- 11 A. Not camps as such, no. The only thing that happened, we  
12 went to Ireland -- just a few of the lads went to  
13 Ireland because we were friendly with one of the  
14 captains in Ireland and we were invited to go there for  
15 a weekend.
- 16 Q. Did you --
- 17 A. We were with the company -- I was actually asked to be  
18 inspecting officer for the Boys' Brigade over in Ireland  
19 for this occasion and the captain said, "Bring one or  
20 two of your boys".
- 21 Q. Did you and some boys go to Ireland?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. And was it just you and the boys that went?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. And how did they get there?

1 A. Boat.

2 Q. And did you drive to the --

3 A. No, one of the drivers from Quarriers drove the minibus

4 down to the boat, dropped us off.

5 Q. And you went on the boat with the boys to Ireland?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Was that person [REDACTED] QGU --

8 A. It was, yes.

9 Q. -- that you knew in Ireland?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Is he someone you had known before then?

12 A. Well, [REDACTED] he worked for him because he was

13 in charge -- he had a battery organisation and [REDACTED] was

14 there being taught. That was how we knew [REDACTED] QGU

15 Q. And did [REDACTED] QGU at some stage work in Scotland?

16 A. Oh yes, he worked in Glasgow.

17 Q. Did he run a BB --

18 A. In Ireland.

19 Q. Was he also involved in the BB in Scotland?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Not to your knowledge?

22 A. No, not to my knowledge.

23 Q. So you've got the activity in the BB you have told us

24 about. You're the fire officer. You're a house parent

25 as well.



1 A. In brackets, yes.

2 Q. In brackets, but you're a de facto house parent, you're  
3 in a house with children?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And they're under your care, if you like.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. In a practical sense.

8 A. Uh-huh.

9 Q. With your wife?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Were you engaged in other activities, because I think --  
12 did you have a role in the church?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. What was that?

15 A. I became church officer. Now, that would be when  
16 I retired from the cottage.

17 Q. So it was after 1974 --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- you became the church officer?

20 A. I became the church officer, yes.

21 Q. Before then, did you have any role in the church?

22 A. No, I didn't. I had nothing to do with the church. The  
23 man retired, who was the church officer, and of course  
24 I was in the house there doing -- basically I was asked  
25 if I would take on the church officer's role.

- 1 Q. When he retired?
- 2 A. When I retired.
- 3 Q. When you retired?
- 4 A. Yes. I retired -- no, I was out the cottage.
- 5 Q. Yes. That's what I thought you said.
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. So after 1974 but before you retired in 1998, you became
- 8 the church officer?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. And you took the place of some other individual?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Who was that?
- 13 A. Now, it could be two ... There was a Mr QGV? and
- 14 I think the other man was QFE . QFE went
- 15 away to be a minister of the Church of Scotland and
- 16 I was asked to take on the church then.
- 17 Q. I suppose in your capacity as a fire officer and health
- 18 and safety, you would also, apart from going to
- 19 cottages, go to the church as well?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. So you'd have access to the church and keys to the
- 22 church?
- 23 A. Oh yes. I did.
- 24 Q. Did you help out at all at the church before 1974?
- 25 A. No. No, I didn't. Because there was a church officer

- 1           there, so no, I didn't.
- 2           Q. But you would go to the church from time to time?
- 3           A. Oh, yes. We never stopped going. When we left the
- 4           cottage, we still went to the church.
- 5           Q. You'd attend services there?
- 6           A. Yes.
- 7           Q. But you would also go in your other capacity or you
- 8           could go in the other capacity as a fire officer or
- 9           safety officer from time to time?
- 10          A. Well, when I was church officer I knew the situation
- 11          there, so I wouldn't be going there privately or
- 12          anything like that. I would be there ...
- 13          Q. Did you have any other roles? You seem as if you were
- 14          someone who got involved in a lot of different things as
- 15          part of your life in Quarriers. Did you have other
- 16          responsibilities or roles that you performed,
- 17          particularly in the period when you were in cottage [REDACTED]
- 18          I'm trying to get a picture.
- 19          A. No, not really, no. No.
- 20          Q. Okay. I think you tell us in your statement at
- 21          page 1149, and you don't need to look at it, I think you
- 22          just tell us that you didn't work with children.
- 23          I think that's the way you describe it.
- 24          A. Yes.
- 25          Q. And you have explained, I think, what your role was, the

1           role that you were employed to do. But though you  
2           didn't work with children, clearly you spent a bit of  
3           time with children because you were in a cottage with  
4           children.

5           A. Yes.

6           Q. And at times presumably you were left in charge of the  
7           children.

8           A. Not necessarily, no.

9           Q. I know not necessarily, but there would be times, would  
10          there not?

11          A. No, there was an assistant in the house. If [REDACTED] --  
12          [REDACTED] was in [REDACTED] and if she went to the  
13          [REDACTED], the assistant was always there.

14          Q. Always?

15          A. Yes.

16          Q. There were no occasions when you were in the house  
17          alone?

18          A. No, because I had to be -- I was on 24-hour call and  
19          I could have been called out, so that's why there's an  
20          assistant there.

21          Q. Where would the assistant be on these occasions?

22          A. In the cottage.

23          Q. But where? Would she be in your company all the time?

24          A. Yes -- I don't know what you're getting at here.

25          Q. I'm not getting at anything; I just want to know the

1 factual position.

2 A. She was part of the household really.

3 Q. You didn't spend every waking hour together in the  
4 cottage with the assistant when [REDACTED] was out at some  
5 activity?

6 A. No. I was out at times --

7 Q. But you were in at times --

8 A. Earlier on, I was telling you that I went to churches to  
9 visit, to speak to Women's Guilds. And often, we went  
10 down to the park to play cricket or football, something  
11 like that. But no, I certainly wasn't there with the  
12 assistant on my own, to put it that way. I think that's  
13 what you're trying to imply.

14 Q. Well, I'll maybe take it from your own statement at  
15 page 1154. You were asked about access to children.  
16 Just a general question, and that's all I'm really  
17 exploring at the moment. You say:

18 "I suppose anyone who worked at Quarriers would have  
19 access to children on their own."

20 I take it that would apply to you as much as to any  
21 other employee at Quarriers?

22 A. It would be yes -- especially with the BB. I had other  
23 officers with me right enough, but there are occasions  
24 when you were -- like football, you may have been on our  
25 own then.

1 Q. But there must have been times in cottage [REDACTED] when you  
2 were alone with a child or children in the five years  
3 you were in cottages [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. There must have been  
4 times in the 2,000 or so days when you would be alone  
5 with a child or other children.

6 A. I certainly wouldn't be alone with a child, put it that  
7 way.

8 Q. Never?

9 A. No, because what we did -- I don't know what other  
10 cottages did, but we had -- our sitting room was open to  
11 the children and they could come in and watch the  
12 television if they wanted to. But there was no way  
13 I had them on their own.

14 Q. Never?

15 A. Never, no.

16 Q. Was there a playroom as well as your own sitting room?

17 A. There was a playroom, yes.

18 Q. Would there be times when some children would be in the  
19 playroom and other children would be in the sitting  
20 room?

21 A. It's a possibility, yes -- depending on what was  
22 happening in the playroom.

23 Q. And possibly children upstairs?

24 A. Yes, whatever time -- well, the youngest possibly would  
25 be upstairs.

- 1 Q. Would be in their bed, for example?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. And I don't suppose you could be in all of these places  
4 at one time.
- 5 A. Very true.
- 6 Q. And I don't suppose that the cottage assistant, if she  
7 was there, could be in all of these places at one time?
- 8 A. I don't think so, no.
- 9 Q. So would it follow that there might be occasions when  
10 you would be in the company of a child alone? It's  
11 not --
- 12 A. It could be possible, yes, but I don't think ...  
13 I don't know what you're implying, but the doors -- we  
14 never locked doors. All the doors were left open. That  
15 was a good thing. In fact, we were told at times that  
16 we should be locking the front door, but we never locked  
17 doors at all because the village was basically clear of  
18 any robberies or anything like that, so there was really  
19 no need for locking.
- 20 Q. To your knowledge, were there ever any guidelines or  
21 instructions issued to house parents, including you and  
22 [REDACTED], on corporal punishment or chastisement of  
23 children in your care? Were there every any  
24 instructions or guidelines you could draw on?
- 25 A. No, I couldn't do that, no. Certainly the belt --

1           before I came in, the belt was done away with. That was  
2           certainly not allowed.

3       Q.   So you're telling us that there was no belt in your  
4           house?

5       A.   That's right.

6       Q.   Well, perhaps that's maybe going too far. You'd have  
7           a waist belt, for example, I suppose.

8       A.   Um ...

9       Q.   Did you wear a belt?

10      A.   I wore braces a lot.

11      Q.   Did you wear a belt as well?

12      A.   I probably did have a belt round my waist, yes.

13      Q.   But you don't think there was a belt that -- when you  
14           talk about a belt --

15      A.   Used of corporal punishment, is that what you're  
16           trying --

17      Q.   I just want to know what the factual position is. I'm  
18           just exploring if there was a belt in the house and, if  
19           so, what type it was. But you say there wasn't one?

20      A.   No, there wasn't, no. All cottages, they did have --  
21           there was a name for the belts. They were taken away.

22      Q.   When you say the belts were taken away, do you mean  
23           something like a school belt or a tawse?

24      A.   Tawse, a tawse.

25      Q.   You recall there was a time when these were taken away?



1 A. Well, before I came back the second time, they were  
2 away, yes.

3 LADY SMITH: Sorry, what time are you referring to?

4 A. I would say around about the sixties.

5 LADY SMITH: When you said "before I came back the second  
6 time", what year?

7 A. I came in 1969 and I would say the early sixties, maybe  
8 before that. But I know there were no belts. They were  
9 taken out.

10 LADY SMITH: How do you know that?

11 A. [REDACTED] told me.

12 LADY SMITH: Was there ever anything in writing that you saw  
13 about whether or not belts could be used --

14 A. No.

15 LADY SMITH: -- or tawses could be used?

16 A. I don't recall that at all.

17 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples.

18 MR PEOPLES: You've told us already, you didn't get any  
19 guidance on the issue of corporal punishment, whether  
20 using a belt or otherwise. There was no guidance given  
21 to you?

22 A. No, there wasn't, no.

23 Q. Do you think that might have assisted a house parent to  
24 have had guidance or instruction on the matter of  
25 chastisement, punishment? Do you think that would have

- 1           been a help?
- 2       A.   I suppose it would have been a help, yes.
- 3       Q.   Would it have led to a consistency of treatment across
- 4           cottages?
- 5       A.   If one cottage -- if a lot(?) or an instruction was
- 6           given from the office, all cottages were given it --
- 7       Q.   No instruction on that matter was given to your
- 8           knowledge?
- 9       A.   Not to my knowledge, no.
- 10      Q.   So therefore it was possible there could be different
- 11           and inconsistent practices amongst cottages on issues of
- 12           discipline, punishment, the use of corporal punishment
- 13           and so forth?
- 14      A.   I would imagine so.
- 15      Q.   Did you know?
- 16      A.   I didn't, no. I didn't interfere with other cottages.
- 17      Q.   Was that the general way of life in Quarriers, no one
- 18           interfered with anyone else's cottage, each got on with
- 19           their own cottage?
- 20      A.   That's right, yes.
- 21      Q.   Was that the way it was?
- 22      A.   That was the way it was. They ran their own cottage
- 23           as --
- 24      Q.   As they saw fit?
- 25      A.   Yes.

1 LADY SMITH: Am I to take it from something you said a few  
2 minutes ago that on occasion an instruction would be  
3 given by the office to all cottages --

4 A. Yes.

5 LADY SMITH: -- about something?

6 A. Yes.

7 LADY SMITH: Give me an example.

8 A. Wearing of clothing. That was quite often brought up.  
9 It was a time where girls wanted to wear jeans, stuff  
10 like that, and that was ... Because of the year, they  
11 allowed that to happen. Some house parents, they kept  
12 to the old stage, girls wearing skirts and that was it.

13 LADY SMITH: Can you give me another example?

14 A. No, [REDACTED]

15 LADY SMITH: All right.

16 MR PEOPLES: Was there, to your knowledge, during the period  
17 from 1969 to 1974, when [REDACTED] was the house parent in  
18 cottage [REDACTED] and earlier in cottage [REDACTED] and you were living  
19 with her as fire officer -- was there to your knowledge  
20 any complaints process or procedure if a child wished to  
21 complain about something that concerned them? Are you  
22 aware of there being such a policy or procedure?

23 A. I mentioned earlier on that we had the Ladies' Committee  
24 and we also had Mr Mortimer's counsel, an ever-open  
25 door. So there was no way that a child would be told to

1 shut up or anything like that. If they felt there was  
2 something not right, then they had that and it was open  
3 for them.

4 Q. So your understanding is that if a child felt able to  
5 raise a matter or complain, one way they could do it was  
6 when the lady visitors were present?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Do you ever remember that happening?

9 A. I don't recall it at all.

10 Q. Do you ever remember the lady visitors, or anyone else,  
11 following their visit coming to you and raising a matter  
12 about a child had reported to the lady visitors?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Do you ever remember anything like that?

15 A. No, if there were any complaints it would go to the  
16 office. They were responsible and the office would --  
17 if there was anything, they would come back to the  
18 house parents.

19 Q. Did they come back to you on --

20 A. Not to my knowledge.

21 Q. If a child had said something to a lady visitor about  
22 something they were unhappy about in the cottage, you're  
23 telling us that if they did report it to someone else,  
24 it never got back to you?

25 A. If it was concerning our cottage, yes.

1 Q. What --

2 A. [REDACTED] would -- to my knowledge, this never happened.

3 Q. Right. Okay. And she would presumably discuss it with

4 you if it did?

5 A. What, the lady? No, no.

6 Q. No, [REDACTED] would discuss -- if a matter had come up, she

7 would have told you, wouldn't she?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And you don't have any memory of her telling you?

10 A. No.

11 LADY SMITH: Were children alone with the lady visitors?

12 A. They were. That was one of the privileges that they

13 had, that they could be alone.

14 LADY SMITH: They could be?

15 A. Yes, and they normally did, if they had anything to say.

16 LADY SMITH: Were you present?

17 A. No. No, there was no one allowed apart from the

18 Ladies' Committee and the child.

19 LADY SMITH: Were you in the cottage during the ladies'

20 visits?

21 A. No, I was normally out doing fire drills or something

22 like that.

23 LADY SMITH: So you don't really know what happened when

24 they were inside the cottage visiting?

25 A. No, I don't. As I said earlier on, one of the things

1           was they spoke to the children and also spoke to the  
2           house mother, and ██████ raised the matter about no  
3           washing machines. That's the type of thing that was  
4           passed on.

5           LADY SMITH: But that's what you've been told, you weren't  
6           present during the visit?

7           A. I wasn't.

8           LADY SMITH: Thank you.

9           MR PEOPLES: You did mention, and I maybe should just take  
10          this from you because I think it's something we've been  
11          told about by Quarriers, that you mentioned this council  
12          of children --

13          A. Yes.

14          Q. -- that was established. My understanding from the  
15          information Quarriers has given us is that some form of  
16          council where children were represented was established  
17          in the 1960s by Joe Mortimer.

18          A. That's right. I would say the seventies more or less.

19          Q. Maybe the seventies?

20          A. Yes.

21          Q. So you were aware that there was this council?

22          A. Yes, I knew, that yes.

23          Q. And that there would be representatives of the children  
24          who would attend this council?

25          A. That's right, the older children.

1 Q. Who else went to this council?

2 A. I don't know if the assistant director was there, but

3 I feel that it was just Mr Mortimer himself.

4 Q. Had this council?

5 A. Yes, aye.

6 Q. And were minutes kept?

7 A. I'd imagine so. I wouldn't know.

8 Q. You didn't ever attend the council?

9 A. I didn't, no.

10 Q. Did anything that may have been discussed at

11 the council -- do you ever remember anything being

12 raised with you that had been raised at council?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Are you suggesting that the council was a place where an

15 individual child could make a specific complaint about

16 a house parent or any other person?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. You say that was the --

19 A. That was one of the reasons, but again, children growing

20 up, they probably thought, well, can we not have this,

21 can we not have that, do you know? Things like that.

22 But any complaints from a child, they went ... Nobody

23 stopped them, they went.

24 Q. So your understanding is that a child could raise at

25 council a specific complaint that would be discussed at

1 council, where any number of children and a single adult  
2 were present?

3 A. No, that wouldn't happen.

4 Q. No. Why would that not happen?

5 A. Because it's a private thing and the director and the  
6 child would do that and possibly bring in Mrs -- you  
7 know, the psychologist.

8 Q. So I think what you're telling me, and that maybe  
9 accords with what I would expect, is that a council  
10 meeting to just discuss general matters about life --

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. -- you would have discussion and the children might  
13 represent the views of their electorate, if you like,  
14 about things like clothing, for example, or some other  
15 matter?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. But when it came to specific complaints, the council was  
18 not the place where complaints would be discussed?

19 A. It certainly wouldn't, no. It would be private.

20 Q. So it wasn't part of the complaints process?

21 A. No, no, it wasn't. It was basically to -- the children  
22 were growing up and they were getting more to say rather  
23 than their mouths kept shut. They were encouraged to,  
24 if they wanted something to happen.

25 I remember once -- it's going off from Quarriers,



1           this is down to Turnberry now. Our children were there  
2           and the man that was in Turnberry, he came to our place  
3           and he asked the children, "Is there anything that I can  
4           do for you while you're on holidays in years to come?"  
5           and he went away, he said, "Think about it and I'll come  
6           back and ask".

7           He went away and he came back and the children said,  
8           rather than go to Butlins -- because he used to send  
9           children to Butlins for a day -- they wanted a swimming  
10          pool. And the following year, the swimming pool was  
11          there and that was it.

12         Q. I think that happened before your time though, didn't  
13            it?

14         A. No, no.

15         Q. I think --

16         A. It happened in my time.

17         Q. Oh, it did? Sorry, I may have --

18         A. It was actually our children that was asked.

19         Q. About the building of a swimming pool?

20         A. At Turnberry, not the village; we had another swimming  
21          pool at Quarriers.

22         Q. Which was built in the mid-sixties, I think, and opened  
23          by Bobby McGregor, we were told.

24         A. Yes, that's right, and the first man was

25          Gordon Ramsay's -- that famous cook, his father.

1 Q. Was the first person --

2 A. He was the first baths master there.

3 Q. At the Girvan --

4 A. No, at Quarriers.

5 Q. The Quarriers pool?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. I see.

8 We've been discussing, so far as you're able to help  
9 us, systems and processes and guidelines and so forth  
10 and training that were taking place in your time and  
11 also record-keeping. But on the issue of complaints  
12 then, you've described various ways in which a child  
13 might be able to raise a matter. And you've talked  
14 about they could go and see Mr Mortimer, they could  
15 perhaps talk to a social worker.

16 A. Yes. They were at liberty to do that, yes.

17 Q. How was it explained to them that these were avenues  
18 open to them if they had things that were troubling  
19 them? How was that done? How were they educated about  
20 the existence of processes which they could use and use  
21 in confidence in the knowledge that they would be  
22 listened to, the matter would be appropriately  
23 investigated and recorded, and that they would be told  
24 what the outcome was? Did they get education about that  
25 if these processes did exist?

- 1 A. I would suppose it would be a natural thing for them.  
2 They would be worried about something, you know, not  
3 happy with it, and they would have to go to someone.
- 4 Q. Yes, but how would they know where to go?
- 5 A. Well, everybody knew that. I mean, as I said earlier  
6 on, Mr Mortimer's door was open all the time and they  
7 could go there. Any complaints or suggestions, they  
8 went there. There was no problem that way.
- 9 Q. Who was telling them that?
- 10 A. What? That was a general thing. The boys' and girls'  
11 committee were able to tell the other children, if there  
12 were any problems, you go to Mr Mortimer.
- 13 Q. Did you know that they were doing that, that the  
14 committee members were telling children --
- 15 A. Yes, I knew that.
- 16 Q. Did you hear that happen?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. In your cottage?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. Who were the committee members in your cottage?
- 21 A. Now, who was it? I'm just trying to think. It was one  
22 of the girls. [REDACTED], I think it was -- I'm  
23 not quite sure. It was one of the girls anyway.
- 24 Q. Did you or [REDACTED] ever discuss with children in the  
25 cottage between 1969 and 1974 these various avenues if

1           they had any problems to report?

2       A.   Yes.  They were well aware of that, well aware of it.

3       Q.   And did you say to them that that would also include any

4           problems concerning the house parents and the way the

5           house parents treated them?

6       A.   Oh yes, yes.  That was --

7       Q.   You told them that?

8       A.   They knew that.  I mean that was the grapevine.

9       Q.   You didn't tell them explicitly?

10      A.   We did say that any worries that they have, any

11           complaints they have, Mr Mortimer's door is open.

12      Q.   Did you make it clear to them --

13      A.   Very much so --

14      Q.   If I can finish: did you make it clear to them that that

15           included complaints about how they were being treated by

16           their own house parents?

17      A.   Yes.

18      Q.   You made that --

19      A.   Yes, it was clear, yes.  They knew that, all the

20           children knew that.

21      Q.   Well, you say that, but I'm wanting to know how they

22           came to know that and how you conveyed that to them;

23           that's the question.

24      A.   ██████ would convey that to them because it was --

25           everybody knew that Mr Mortimer had an open door.

1           Everybody knew that. And it was used quite often.

2           Q. Just on one other matter, if I may, at this stage:  
3           children who ran away. I think you told us in your  
4           childhood you were aware that children from time to time  
5           ran away from Quarriers.

6           A. Yes.

7           Q. And I think you would be aware that in your time, your  
8           second time as you call it, when you joined Quarriers as  
9           an adult in 1969, that children also ran away from time  
10          to time; is that correct?

11          A. I'm sure there would be. I remember in our own cottage  
12          we had a wee girl called [REDACTED]. She had  
13          a dispute with -- she was only about 5 or 6 and she had  
14          a dispute with [REDACTED], so she took her doll and put her  
15          in a pram, walked towards the church, and [REDACTED] came out  
16          and said, "[REDACTED], teatime", and she about-turned and  
17          she came in. She was just that wee bit angry with  
18          [REDACTED], something she didn't like, and that was it.  
19          There was no sort of -- we didn't have anyone -- well,  
20          we did, we had one boy that ran away. I don't know if  
21          I'm allowed to mention his name.

22          Q. I think you can --

23          LADY SMITH: We don't need the name. If you do the  
24          direction is it can't be repeated outside this room  
25          because whoever it was was a child in care.

1 A. Yes, thank you. Yes, [REDACTED]. He ran away,  
2 [REDACTED] and he felt it was unfair  
3 that one or two of his brothers were still with the  
4 parents but he was brought into care and he objected to  
5 that. Not because of us, this is the way he wanted it.  
6 So he ran away. He was away for a long while -- [REDACTED]

7 [REDACTED]  
8 Well, we did find out where he was, he was at  
9 [REDACTED] and I was asked to go to -- he was wanting to  
10 come back but he didn't want the social worker, he  
11 wanted me to go. So I went there, but I also took  
12 a social worker with me. We went there [REDACTED]  
13 [REDACTED] and the social worker was told to stand  
14 outside and the father said to the dogs, "Watch him",  
15 and I was allowed in, and I was talking to [REDACTED],  
16 would you like to come back home. He said, I would do,  
17 but I still want to go to my own parents.

18 So when he came back home, [REDACTED] made arrangements  
19 to get him to the hospital, just to make sure that  
20 father hadn't marked him in any way -- and we always did  
21 that with all the children, if they went out and they  
22 came back, they always went to the hospital for  
23 a check-up.

24 But [REDACTED] came back and he was with us overnight  
25 and he ran away again. This time, the police picked him

1 up and he was sent to [REDACTED] and through time he was  
2 just -- that was him. Eventually, he got home. That  
3 was it.

4 Q. Did [REDACTED] run away several times?

5 A. [REDACTED]? Not to my knowledge.

6 Q. Because I think we've heard evidence to that effect.

7 You don't remember that?

8 A. No, no.

9 Q. Not at all?

10 A. No.

11 MR PEOPLES: Okay.

12 My Lady, I think at this point I'm moving to some  
13 other matters --

14 LADY SMITH: We could have a short break?

15 MR PEOPLES: -- and we will then hear some other evidence.

16 (The witness withdrew)

17 (12.42 pm)

18 (A short break)

19 (12.53 pm)

20 LADY SMITH: Yes, Mr Peoples.

21 MR PEOPLES: My Lady, we are now going to hear some oral  
22 evidence from a witness who has anonymity in respect of  
23 the matters which the evidence will deal with. That  
24 witness has chosen the pseudonym "Jack".

25 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

1 "JACK" (sworn)

2 LADY SMITH: Please sit down and make yourself comfortable.

3 Jack, now that the microphone is on, I just want to  
4 say a couple of things to you before I hand over to  
5 Mr Peoples. You very helpfully provided a written  
6 statement to the inquiry in response to us writing to  
7 you to ask you to do so. I want to remind you that, as  
8 you were told at the beginning of the document that was  
9 sent to you, although this is a public inquiry and not  
10 a trial, your right not to admit to committing any  
11 crime -- we call it the right against  
12 self-incrimination -- applies as much here as it would  
13 in the courtroom.

14 That means that you don't have to tell us that  
15 you have committed any crime of which you have not been  
16 convicted. You don't have to answer any question if  
17 that means that you would be telling us that you've  
18 committed a crime of which you have not been convicted.

19 If you do decide to answer the question and your  
20 answer includes anything that indicates that you have  
21 committed a crime, that evidence could be used at  
22 a later date. As you know, evidence in these sorts of  
23 hearings is recorded and it will be available on the  
24 transcript at a later date. It is important that you  
25 understand that.



1 A. Yes.

2 LADY SMITH: Do you appreciate that?

3 A. I do.

4 LADY SMITH: If you have any queries, please ask me in the  
5 course of your evidence.

6 A. Thank you.

7 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples.

8 Questions from MR PEOPLES

9 MR PEOPLES: Jack, good afternoon.

10 Today I propose to ask you about some allegations  
11 that have been made against you in the context of being  
12 a person who was employed by Quarriers and lived in  
13 a particular cottage in Quarriers between [REDACTED]

14 It was a cottage in which there were children in  
15 care, who were under the charge of you and your wife  
16 during that period.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. The matters I'm going to ask you about -- I'll ask you  
19 a number of questions and, as Lady Smith has said, since  
20 we are dealing with, in this evidence today,  
21 allegations, you do not require to answer questions  
22 about allegations of abuse made against you, whether  
23 made by a person to this inquiry or to the police or to  
24 anyone else. [REDACTED]

25 [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] So do you understand --

A. I do.

Q. -- the situation? Do you understand your rights in this matter?

A. Yes.

Q. So take your time -- if I ask you a question, take your time and consider whether you wish to make a response or whether you wish to exercise the rights that you've been made aware of.

What I'm going to do at this stage is to ask you some general questions about the types of allegations which have been levelled against you in evidence to this inquiry. I may at some points mention individuals as well who are connected to these allegations in the course of these questions. Do you understand --

A. I do, yes.

Q. -- what I'm going to do?

A. Uh-huh.

Q. Firstly, did you ever abuse or wilfully ill-treat or neglect a child in your care or the care of your wife -- and I think I'll use the cottage -- at cottage [REDACTED]

A. No, I did not.

Q. Did you or your wife ever re-serve meals when a child did not eat the food that was served up to them?

1 A. No, we didn't.

2 Q. Did you ever force-feed a child?

3 A. No, I did not.

4 Q. Did you ever use corporal punishment?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Did your wife?

7 A. No, not to my knowledge, no.

8 Q. Did you or your wife ever slap a child?

9 A. Possibly, yes.

10 Q. And what would you consider to be a slap?

11 A. Oh, just ... Basically just a smack on the arm or

12 something like that, just to sort of make the child

13 aware that they're doing wrong, but nothing worse than

14 that.

15 LADY SMITH: Do I take it that, in your mind, slapping

16 a child is not corporal punishment?

17 A. As far as -- well, I didn't think it was corporal

18 punishment, no.

19 LADY SMITH: Give me an example of corporal punishment.

20 A. Well, corporal punishment was possibly thrashing a child

21 or something like that. Punching them. Things like

22 that. I thought maybe a slap might be just -- yeah.

23 And it wasn't a serious thing anyway, you know, it was

24 just basically a warning.

25 MR PEOPLES: A warning?

- 1 A. Yes, to behave themselves.
- 2 Q. But a sufficient warning that the child would be aware  
3 it had happened, that you had slapped them? That was  
4 the purpose, wasn't it?
- 5 A. It wasn't really a slap. It was just basically ...  
6 What do you call it? Just a reminder, really. I mean,  
7 there was no malice involved in it at all, it was just  
8 a case of "Behave yourself".
- 9 Q. You're gesturing, while giving that answer, that you  
10 were using perhaps a hand?
- 11 A. The back of the hand.
- 12 Q. The back of the hand?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. An open hand?
- 15 A. No, no. Well, just on the arm, just "Behave yourself".
- 16 Q. Your hand was open, when you did this, when you were  
17 giving this slap. I think you're --
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. -- gesturing with the back of your hand?
- 20 A. The back of the hand.
- 21 Q. And you mention that this would involve a smack or slap  
22 on the arm.
- 23 A. Possibly. Possibly.
- 24 Q. Possibly?
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Why is there any doubt on this matter?

2 A. Well, I've explained what happened. I don't think ...

3 No, I'm not going to answer any more of that because

4 I think it's wrong.

5 Q. Did you ever smack or slap a child other than on

6 the arm?

7 A. No.

8 Q. In any other part of their body or head?

9 A. No, I did not, no.

10 Q. Did your wife?

11 A. No.

12 Q. But you wouldn't necessarily --

13 A. I wouldn't know that.

14 Q. So you can't answer, really.

15 A. No.

16 Q. Unless you were present.

17 A. Well, I certainly never saw her doing it, put it that

18 way.

19 Q. Did you ever grab or pull a child by the hair?

20 A. No, I did not.

21 Q. Never?

22 A. No. I knew what was happening in the olden days and

23 I said that no way would that happen if I ever had

24 a cottage. And obviously, I did have a cottage, but no

25 way would I do that.

1 Q. So are you telling us that you certainly didn't draw on  
2 your experience as a child of how you were treated [REDACTED]

3 [REDACTED]

4 A. I certainly didn't use any force like that at all. In  
5 fact, if anything, the force I used would be maybe  
6 remove somebody to another room.

7 Q. And how would you do that?

8 A. Just take them by the arm, take them through. There was  
9 no struggle or anything.

10 Q. But what if the child was struggling?

11 A. Well, it didn't really happen. The child knew that they  
12 were in the wrong. But I don't recall the child  
13 struggling.

14 Q. You have no memory of a child struggling --

15 A. No.

16 Q. -- when you removed them?

17 A. None whatsoever. More or less I said to them, if I was  
18 involved, "Go through to so-and-so", and they would go.

19 Q. So you might just give them an instruction to go to  
20 somewhere else?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. But at times you might take them?

23 A. Dependent on the thing, but there was no sort of malice  
24 or anything like that. Basically, I would tell them.  
25 That would be enough.

1 Q. But there would be times when you'd have to take hold of  
2 them and remove them?

3 A. No.

4 Q. No?

5 A. No, I don't think so. It was there for me if I wanted  
6 to, but I didn't.

7 Q. You didn't?

8 A. No. I told them.

9 Q. What if they were hysterical or screaming or struggling  
10 or were throwing a tantrum? There must have been  
11 children who did that from time to time.

12 A. Just let them do it until they cooled. The idea was we  
13 wanted them to cool down. That was the idea of it.  
14 Now, if they threw themselves on the floor, there wasn't  
15 much we could do about it, because it just ... It had  
16 to go on. Eventually, the child realised that there was  
17 something not right.

18 Q. Did you ever punch and/or kick a child?

19 A. No, I did not.

20 Q. Why did [REDACTED] QKZ [REDACTED] run out of cottage [REDACTED] and go to see  
21 Mr Mortimer?

22 A. I wasn't aware of that happening.

23 Q. You don't remember an occasion when that happened?

24 A. No, I do not.

25 Q. Or the reason why she did so?

1 A. No, I had no idea. I didn't even know that she went to  
2 Mr Mortimer.

3 Q. You don't remember an occasion when Mr Mortimer came to  
4 cottage [REDACTED] and had a discussion with you and [REDACTED] QKR about  
5 [REDACTED] QKZ ?

6 A. No, this is certainly news to me.

7 Q. News to you, okay.

8 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples, it is 1.05. Is this a convenient  
9 place to stop?

10 MR PEOPLES: It's as convenient as any.

11 LADY SMITH: Very well. We'll stop now for the lunch break  
12 now, Jack, and start again at 2 o'clock.

13 (1.05 pm)

14 (The lunch adjournment)

15

16



1 (2.07 pm)

2 LADY SMITH: Jack, I hope you're comfortable again. Are you  
3 ready to carry on with questions?

4 A. Thank you.

5 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples.

6 MR PEOPLES: Good afternoon, Jack. I'm going to ask you  
7 some more questions about allegations and I will repeat  
8 what I said this morning: you do not require to answer  
9 questions about allegations of abuse that have been made  
10 against you. So I think you understand your position  
11 and what your rights are on this matter?

12 A. Yes. That's clear, yes.

13 Q. So can I ask you another question related to evidence  
14 that we've been given.

15 Did you ever use the shed or outhouse at cottage [REDACTED]  
16 at the rear of cottage [REDACTED] as a place of punishment?

17 A. No, I did not.

18 Q. Did you ever take children there, make them remain  
19 there, and on occasions beat them there by punching and  
20 kicking them and sometimes using a belt to strike them?

21 A. I did not.

22 Q. Did you ever make children stand in a line in the  
23 playroom?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Did you ever make them stand in a line and interrogate

1           them in the playroom?

2           A. No, I did not.

3           Q. Did your wife?

4           A. I don't know. [REDACTED]

5           Q. Because we've heard evidence that you did that,

6           according to the evidence that we were given, and that

7           on various occasions you would pick a child out, grab

8           them violently by the hair, drag them to the shed or

9           outhouse, and give them a beating there by punching and

10          kicking them.

11          A. This is disgraceful. Disgraceful. No, I did not.

12          Q. Did you ever use threats?

13          A. No.

14          Q. Did you ever say to a child that if they said anything

15          about what was happening, the child would be sent to

16          a borstal?

17          A. No. Oh for goodness sake, what's happening here?

18          Q. When you were a young man in your 30s, did you have

19          a temper?

20          A. No, I was classed as a placid individual -- that was by

21          other people.

22          Q. I think one person has at least described you as someone

23          that had a quick temper when you were in cottage [REDACTED]

24          Is that --

25          A. That is not true.

1 Q. But were there ever occasions when you lost your temper  
2 when you were in cottage [REDACTED]

3 A. Not to my knowledge.

4 Q. So are you saying that there was never any occasion that  
5 you can remember when you lost your temper at any stage,  
6 got angry, faced with the challenges of a large number  
7 of children, vulnerable children, who were sometimes  
8 displaying challenging behaviour?

9 A. I didn't lose my temper at all.

10 Q. Ever?

11 A. Never.

12 Q. If you never did any of the things that I have been  
13 putting to you this afternoon and earlier today, why  
14 would former residents of cottage [REDACTED] say you did them?

15 A. Well, I don't know why, because I had no reason to do  
16 anything to them. But I just don't understand -- the  
17 question you asked is why. There is a possibility --  
18 I do know who you're talking about.

19 Q. Who am I talking about, do you think?

20 A. Am I allowed to say?

21 Q. Yes.

22 A. [REDACTED] **QLG** [REDACTED].

23 LADY SMITH: His name cannot be repeated outside.

24 A. It can't be? No.

25 LADY SMITH: [REDACTED] no.

1 MR PEOPLES: So you think it is [REDACTED] QLG saying these  
2 things?  
3 A. I do, yes.  
4 Q. What about [REDACTED] QKZ, was she saying these things?  
5 A. No.  
6 Q. Not at all?  
7 A. Not at all, no.  
8 Q. You're not aware that she made a statement to the police  
9 where she said some of these things?  
10 A. If that was the case, the police would have come to me,  
11 and that didn't happen.  
12 Q. We've seen a police statement. You say that the police  
13 didn't talk to you about matters that she told them  
14 about.  
15 A. No.  
16 Q. What about [REDACTED] ?  
17 A. I don't know anything about that.  
18 Q. Was she not someone that [REDACTED] about things that  
19 happened in cottage [REDACTED] Did she tell police that things  
20 happened there?  
21 A. This is all new to me, this.  
22 Q. This is new?  
23 A. Absolutely.  
24 Q. What about [REDACTED]  
25 A. No.

1 Q. And [REDACTED]?

2 A. I know all the girls that you're talking about, but  
3 certainly I wasn't involved with any of them.

4 Q. Because I think, [REDACTED]  
5 [REDACTED] there were various charges against QKR  
6 QKR is that correct?

7 A. That is true.

8 Q. There were charges relating to [REDACTED] of assault,  
9 wilful ill-treatment and neglect charges against QKR  
10 QKR

11 A. I don't know about that.

12 Q. No?

13 A. No.

14 Q. There was also a [REDACTED] assaulted  
15 [REDACTED]

16 A. No, that is wrong. I know where this is coming from,  
17 [REDACTED]

18 Q. Okay. But there were charges; is that correct?

19 A. I don't know.

20 Q. I am reading them out because I have seen the charges --

21 A. [REDACTED]

22 Q. Okay.

23 Then there was a charge of wilful ill-treatment and  
24 neglect of [REDACTED].

25 A. No, that's untrue.

- 1 Q. And there was a charge of assaulting [REDACTED]  
2 [REDACTED] -- QKR [REDACTED] again was the subject of that  
3 charge.
- 4 A. [REDACTED] I doubt very much that that  
5 happened.
- 6 Q. And there was a charge that [REDACTED] wilfully ill-treated and  
7 neglected [REDACTED]
- 8 A. That's not true.
- 9 Q. I think there was a charge that you assaulted  
10 [REDACTED] QLG [REDACTED] on various occasions between 1969 and 1973;  
11 do you remember that charge?
- 12 A. I don't recall this at all.
- 13 Q. And that that charge was:  
14 "You assaulted by pulling him by the hair, slapping  
15 and punching him on the body, and on one occasion  
16 slapping him on the face, pulling him by the hair,  
17 punching him on the arm and body, striking him on the  
18 legs with a belt, all to his injury."
- 19 A. That is wrong. I know where the belt comes from and  
20 that wasn't me.
- 21 Q. Where does the belt come from?
- 22 A. His father. When he came to us, he told us things that  
23 happened, what his father did to him, what his foster  
24 people did too, and what the house parents in cottage [REDACTED]  
25 did. He told us that.

1 I know what his game was, I didn't realise it at the  
2 time, but I do know what his game was. He was  
3 determined to get someone for all this damage that was  
4 done to him and I, unfortunately, was the only person  
5 available.

6 Q. Do you recall, you also were charged [REDACTED]  
7 [REDACTED] of wilfully ill-treating and neglecting  
8 [REDACTED] QLG by depriving him of food, repeatedly  
9 re-serving parts of uneaten meals, rendering him hungry,  
10 and locking him in a room?

11 A. Dear oh dear. That is untrue. Oh, that is shocking.

12 LADY SMITH: You were actually asked whether you remember  
13 that that was the charge.

14 A. No, it wasn't.

15 LADY SMITH: Was it not?

16 A. This is something else that's come up. [REDACTED]

17 [REDACTED]  
18 [REDACTED] He came up with some weird stories,  
19 which were all untrue.

20 MR PEOPLES: I think you were also charged [REDACTED]  
21 with:

22 "Conducting yourself in a disorderly manner by  
23 entering a girl's dormitory and kneeling at the bed of  
24 [REDACTED] and committing a breach of the peace."

25 That was a charge. That's all I'm asking. Were you

1 charged with that? Do you remember?

2 A. [REDACTED]

3 Q. [REDACTED]

4 [REDACTED]

5 [REDACTED]

6 A. [REDACTED]

7 Q. And there was also charge which related to [REDACTED] QKZ  
8 of assault in between 1972, 10 November, and  
9 9 November 1974, where you were charged with seizing  
10 hold of her and striking her head against a sink to her  
11 injury; do you remember that charge?

12 A. I don't.

13 Q. No?

14 A. No.

15 Q. So there appears to be more than [REDACTED] QLG [REDACTED] making  
16 allegations against [REDACTED] you [REDACTED]. Do you  
17 understand what I'm saying?

18 A. I understand what you're saying, yes.

19 Q. Where a number of people are making these charges, if  
20 they didn't happen, if these things didn't happen, why  
21 would they all be saying that they did? That's the  
22 point I asked you earlier.

23 A. I can tell you. I think that [REDACTED] QLG [REDACTED] has been the  
24 problem here, trying to get help and that. That's what  
25 I believe. He's been trying his best to get at someone



1 for all the damage that was done to him. He's a clever  
2 boy because he knew that all the people that he was  
3 talking about are dead. So somebody had to be -- they  
4 can't come back and say, "That wasn't right, that wasn't  
5 right", but somebody had to be blamed for it and,  
6 unfortunately, I was the one.

7 Q. [REDACTED]

8 A. [REDACTED]

9 Q. But you did face a charge of assault in relation to

10 [REDACTED] QKZ [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]

11 A. What charge is that?

12 Q. I think I just read it out to you. I'll just repeat it,

13 if I may. There was a charge [REDACTED]

14 [REDACTED] that you assaulted [REDACTED] QKZ [REDACTED] at

15 Quarrier's Village between 10 November 1972, when she  
16 would be aged 14, and 9 November 1974, when she would be  
17 aged 15, by seizing hold of her and striking her head  
18 against a sink to her injury. Do you not remember that  
19 charge?

20 A. No, I don't remember it and I know for a fact that

21 I didn't do that.

22 Q. Okay. Just dealing with that matter, the matter that  
23 charge relates to, if I could, we've been given evidence  
24 or heard evidence that there was an incident involving

25 [REDACTED] QKZ [REDACTED]

and yourself upstairs in cottage [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] an incident where she ran out of the cottage,  
and that Mr Mortimer came to the cottage?

A. That didn't happen.

Q. He never came?

A. No, it didn't happen.

Q. Because what we were told was that [REDACTED] **QLG** was  
downstairs in cottage [REDACTED] **QKZ** was upstairs,  
as were you, [REDACTED] **QLG** heard a rumpus and raised  
voices, and he saw [REDACTED] **QKZ** running down the  
stairs with blood pouring out of her nose, [REDACTED] **QKZ** opened  
the front door, ran out of the cottage, ran to Holmlea,  
to Joe Mortimer's office, and that [REDACTED] **QLA** was taken back  
to cottage [REDACTED] by Joe Mortimer, and that Mr Mortimer went  
to the staff sitting room where he spoke to [REDACTED] **QKR** and  
yourself, and that [REDACTED] went upstairs, as did  
[REDACTED] **QLG**, they weren't party to this discussion  
between Joe Mortimer and you and [REDACTED] **QKR**. But that  
[REDACTED] **QKZ** told [REDACTED] **QLG**, "The bastard's made me apologise to  
him", and that Mr Mortimer said that if she was to  
report the matter that she ran to him to tell him about,  
that you could be gone in a week and that that was  
a very serious thing to do.

[REDACTED] **QLG**'s understanding was that, a week later,  
[REDACTED] **QKZ** left, the matter wasn't made an official

1 complaint, but his understanding was that you had  
2 caused, deliberately caused, [REDACTED] face to strike  
3 the rim of a sink.

4 A. Oh, for goodness sake. This is ridiculous. If [REDACTED]  
5 [REDACTED] went to Mr Mortimer with that complaint, I would  
6 have been sacked because he wouldn't stand for things  
7 like that. And I don't recall anything of Mr Mortimer  
8 coming to the house and mentioning it.

9 Q. You don't recall him coming --

10 A. He didn't come because he didn't need to come because  
11 I didn't do anything to [REDACTED].

12 Q. Again, I just want to be clear. We also saw a police  
13 statement that [REDACTED] provided [REDACTED] We've got a copy  
14 of that, where she told the police about an incident in  
15 a bathroom in cottage [REDACTED] where she told the police you  
16 came in, told her to get washed, she replied, "Not now",  
17 you said, "Wash right now", and filled the sink with  
18 water, and she told the police she was standing at the  
19 sink, bending over to start washing her face, when you  
20 pushed the back of her head down and that she -- and I'm  
21 using her word in the statement -- she battered the  
22 bridge of her nose off the rim of the sink. She said  
23 something to the effect, "That's out of order, you're  
24 in the wrong", she ran out of the cottage, that's what  
25 she told the police, went to see Mr Mortimer, told him

1 what happened, Mr Mortimer told QKZ she could report  
2 the matter, but gave her a week to think about it. He  
3 said that you, Jack, could be sacked and QKZ said to  
4 Mr Mortimer, according to her police statement, that she  
5 didn't want to stay in the cottage any more and when  
6 QKZ went back a week later, she told Mr Mortimer she  
7 wasn't going to -- didn't want the matter to be taken  
8 further and she also told the police that within about  
9 three days she was moved [REDACTED]

10 [REDACTED] Does any of that ring a bell?

11 A. No, it doesn't.

12 Q. None of it?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Did QKZ leave cottage [REDACTED]

15 A. She would at one time, but I don't know -- [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED] But I know she didn't leave  
17 under that circumstance or anything like that.

18 Q. Where did she go?

19 A. That's just a downright disgrace.

20 Q. Where did she go?

21 A. I think she went to [REDACTED] I think, I'm not sure.

22 Q. You're not sure?

23 A. No, [REDACTED] I know she was the age to go  
24 to [REDACTED] But, no, it's a load of lies  
25 that have been told.

1 Q. And I think if I just -- I have obviously put to you  
2 some of the general nature of the allegations that we've  
3 heard evidence about, but in particular, if I gave you  
4 some specific allegations, Mr [QLG] told the inquiry  
5 that you would, on occasions, force-feed children using  
6 a fork or spoon, where you would try to shovel food into  
7 the child's mouth in a violent manner.

8 A. That is ridiculous.

9 Q. Do you remember an occasion where a vase was broken and  
10 it struck a girl on the leg?

11 A. I don't. I don't remember that at all.

12 Q. We heard evidence about that, and that the girl was  
13 someone that we were told was used sometimes by you [REDACTED]  
14 [QKR] as a nanny. Would that help you to identify  
15 the girl?

16 A. No, it doesn't.

17 Q. And on this occasion, there was a vase thrown and it hit  
18 a girl on the leg and, according to the evidence we were  
19 given, you came in and, I'll quote the way it was said  
20 in evidence, like a raging bull, you grabbed Mr [QLG]  
21 by the hair, punched him on the body, took him to the  
22 shed, where the beating continued until, as he put it,  
23 he submitted.

24 A. Oh. That is nonsense. That man's sick. Absolutely  
25 sick.

1 Q. He said, just as regards the use of the shed -- and  
2 I will put this more specifically to you -- that he  
3 would be taken to the shed on a number of occasions and  
4 beaten there by you, he would be in tears, curled up and  
5 saying, "I'm sorry, I won't let it happen again".

6 A. That's ridiculous, absolutely ridiculous what you're  
7 saying.

8 Q. And so far as the playroom is concerned, he told us  
9 there were times when children would be made to stand in  
10 a line in the playroom to be subject to an interrogation  
11 by you about some matter.

12 A. That never happened. Never. I wasn't involved with  
13 that at all.

14 Q. And he said that no one would own up and what would  
15 happen then would be that you would select a child or  
16 pick them out, a child that you thought may have done  
17 something, and that you would violently grab that child  
18 by the hair and drag them to the shed.

19 If **QLG** was the person selected, he would --  
20 in his case, he got a beating, by punching and kicking,  
21 in the shed from you.

22 A. That didn't happen. That did not happen.

23 Q. I'll just put another specific allegation that we heard  
24 evidence about. It's this: Mr **QLG** recalled an  
25 occasion when **QKR** had kicked him and he said he

1 kicked her back and you weren't in the cottage. That's  
2 what he told us. He said that when you got back, he was  
3 called for, to come down from his bed, when he was  
4 halfway down the stairs you dragged him towards the  
5 shed, you smacked him round the head, and you gave him  
6 a beating and then you sent him to his bed later on.

7 What about that?

8 A. Lies.

9 Q. Lies?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. In relation to that occasion, he told us that he  
12 suffered an injury and that he was in excruciating pain  
13 and that he had a pain in his ears and that that night  
14 he was knocking on your door several times because  
15 he was in terrible pain and needed to get medical  
16 attention and that he was simply told to go back to bed  
17 and told there was nothing wrong with him and that he  
18 did that several times but failed to get any medical  
19 attention.

20 A. That's not true. If he had a sore ear, we would have  
21 done something about it. To my knowledge, he has not  
22 had a sore ear.

23 Q. You don't remember --

24 A. I don't recall that at all, no.

25 Q. Because he told us that during the night his ear burst

1 or something happened which caused blood to spill over  
2 his pillow and he described it as the most excruciating  
3 pain he'd ever had, but he didn't get any medical  
4 attention despite asking for that attention.

5 A. I don't recall him having a sore ear -- but if that was  
6 the case, he would get medical attention.

7 Q. So your position is none of that ever happened?

8 A. True. It didn't. As I told you earlier on, he's  
9 wanting to get at someone and, unfortunately, I was the  
10 only one left.

11 Q. What about [REDACTED] QKZ [REDACTED]?

12 A. I don't know about [REDACTED] QKZ [REDACTED]. I didn't know anything  
13 about this injury that she had. It certainly wasn't  
14 done by me.

15 Q. She told the police that you were --

16 A. She may have. No, I was not responsible. I didn't do  
17 anything to her. She's been egged on [REDACTED] and  
18 that's what he's been doing.

19 Q. What about [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and  
20 [REDACTED]?

21 A. The same. He needed to get corroboration from some  
22 people to make this thing stand. And that's what he's  
23 been doing, he has been using everybody else. He's made  
24 a fool of everyone, [REDACTED]

25 Q. I think he told us, and I think it's perhaps borne out,



1           that he only contacted the police and gave them some  
2           information about what happened in cottage [REDACTED] after QKR  
3           QKR contacted him. Do you know about that?

4           A. [REDACTED] QKR contacted him for help and it turned the wrong  
5           way, it went sour. He decided that he wanted to do  
6           something and I think this was the area that he felt,  
7           "Now I've got a chance to blame somebody".

8           Q. By that stage, you were under investigation --

9           A. I was.

10          Q. -- because other people had made complaints?

11          A. Yes, that's right.

12          Q. Including another boy?

13          A. Uh-huh.

14          Q. And the girls that I mentioned.

15          A. Not to my knowledge, the girls.

16          Q. You are not aware that they were making any complaints  
17          about you?

18          A. No.

19          Q. [REDACTED]

20

21

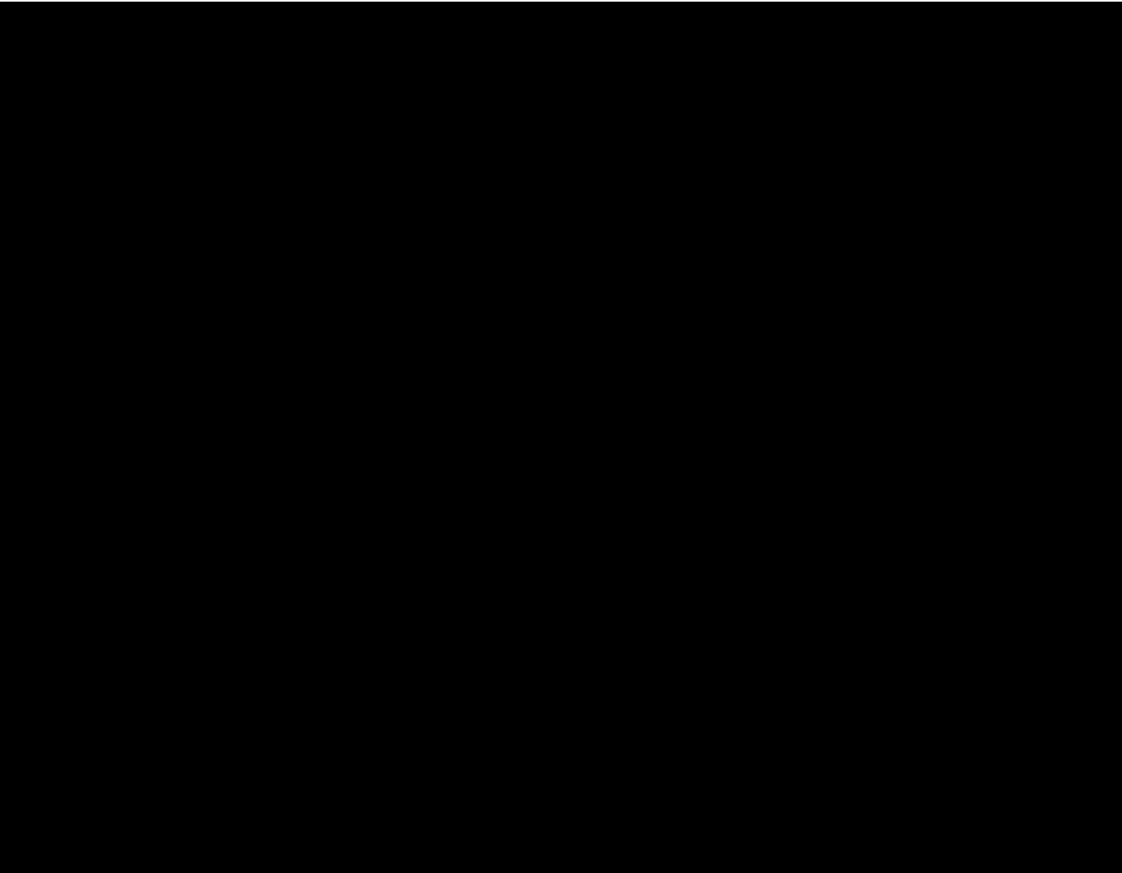
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23          A. [REDACTED]

24          Q. [REDACTED]

25          A. [REDACTED]

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MR PEOPLES: Jack, can I just finish with something, just raise something that you said earlier about how children would be disciplined in cottage [REDACTED] I think you told me that what you would do if a child had done something and was perhaps in an emotional state, struggling or even hysterical, that you'd let them cool down or calm down.

A. That was the idea, to calm them down. And they did.

Q. And then either by instruction, or by taking them by the arm, you would take them to another room.

A. No.

Q. You didn't?

A. I wouldn't touch them. I'd just send them.

1 Q. But you'd only do that after they calmed down?

2 A. Oh yes, because there's no point in doing anything else.

3 Q. If that is the case, why in your statement to the  
4 inquiry -- at page 1154 of WIT.001.002.1148, why is it  
5 the case that you said that:

6 "If a child was, for example, bullying a younger  
7 child, [REDACTED] QKR would remove them to another room on  
8 their own to cool off"?

9 And why did you say:

10 "[REDACTED] QKR or the assistant dealt with sanctions,  
11 unless it was the older boys who were too much for my  
12 wife or assistant, and I would remove them to calm down  
13 as she did"?

14 A. I don't recall this at all.

15 Q. That's what you said in your statement, that you  
16 would --

17 LADY SMITH: Do you see what's on the screen in front of  
18 you, Jack? Mr Peoples is reading from your statement,  
19 the words you used when you responded to the inquiry in  
20 your statement.

21 (Pause)

22 A. There certainly were -- they were told to go to another  
23 room to calm down, but they certainly weren't pushed or  
24 anything like that.

25 LADY SMITH: What if they refused?

1 A. There's not much you can do about it. We'd have to  
2 report them to the Social Work Department.

3 LADY SMITH: You said here you'd remove them.

4 A. Yes.

5 LADY SMITH: How?

6 A. Well, I don't know. It's so long ago, I just don't know  
7 what the thing is.

8 LADY SMITH: This wasn't written that long ago, Jack. It  
9 may be I'm picking you up wrong, but you having written  
10 that you would remove them, that paints a picture in my  
11 head of you physically taking a hold of a child and  
12 removing them from one place and taking them to another.  
13 Am I wrong about that?

14 A. Not necessarily. I could tell them to go to another -  
15 but I certainly wouldn't push them or whatever --

16 LADY SMITH: But you haven't written, "I would tell them".

17 A. Well ...

18 LADY SMITH: Do you see what I mean, Jack? This paints  
19 a picture of you physically taking hold of a child and  
20 taking them to another place:  
21 "I would remove the child."

22 A. There was certainly no damage done to them. That's the  
23 way of it if that was the case.

24 MR PEOPLES: Lest we be in any doubt about this, you said --  
25 you gave that description in the statement I have just

1 read from, which was your first statement provided to  
2 the inquiry. In a second statement provided to the  
3 inquiry where you were asked to respond to allegations,  
4 which is the statement at WIT.003.001.6208, which you  
5 provided as recently as 2 October of this year, you  
6 said:

7 "I would remove him [and this is I think a reference  
8 to QLG] from other children to another room  
9 until he cooled down."

10 So you are saying, again in relation to a specific  
11 boy, that one of the things you would do was to remove  
12 him until he cooled down. No question of letting him  
13 calm down and then telling him to go to another place.

14 A. Well, there was ...

15 Q. These are your words, not mine.

16 A. Yes, I see that.

17 (Pause)

18 No, I ...

19 LADY SMITH: Were these children difficult to control at  
20 times, Jack?

21 A. Some were.

22 LADY SMITH: There were a lot of children in the house at  
23 once.

24 A. Well, we had 12 to 14.

25 LADY SMITH: That's quite a lot of children.

1 A. Yes. There was no -- if that was the case, there was  
2 no ... It was basically move the child out of the road.

3 **QLG** was a bully. An absolute bully. The children  
4 were frightened from him. He would tell them what to  
5 say. That's why I think it's happened. He was a bully.

6 MR PEOPLES: Are you saying he told them what to say in  
7 2002?

8 A. I would think so, yes.

9 Q. What basis have you got for saying that?

10 A. I just assume.

11 Q. What --

12 A. Like some of the girls there that reported the thing,  
13 now, these things didn't happen, so how did they manage  
14 that?

15 Q. Well, according to them they did.

16 A. They didn't.

17 Q. You're saying that, but they're saying the opposite.  
18 It's not just one --

19 A. I was certainly not guilty of that.

20 Q. There's three of them, or four of them -- and indeed

21 **QLG** is saying that you did some of the things  
22 I've put to you this afternoon.

23 A. I didn't do it.

24 Q. I understand that's your position.

25 A. Yes. I didn't do it.

1 Q. But they're adamant that you did and there are at least  
2 five that we have mentioned today.

3 A. They can be entitled to do that if they like, but I did  
4 not. It's just all lies.

5 MR PEOPLES: I think these are all the questions I have for  
6 this witness, my Lady, so I just thank him for  
7 attending.

8 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

9 MR GALE: My Lady, I did submit some questions to  
10 Mr Peoples, but I'm very grateful to him for covering  
11 those matters in his questions and I'd like to thank  
12 him.

13 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much, Mr Gale.

14 Jack, there are no other questions for you,  
15 thank you very much for coming along today to answer  
16 questions, in addition to having provided your written  
17 responses to us. I'm now able to let you go.

18 A. Thank you.


19 (The witness withdrew)

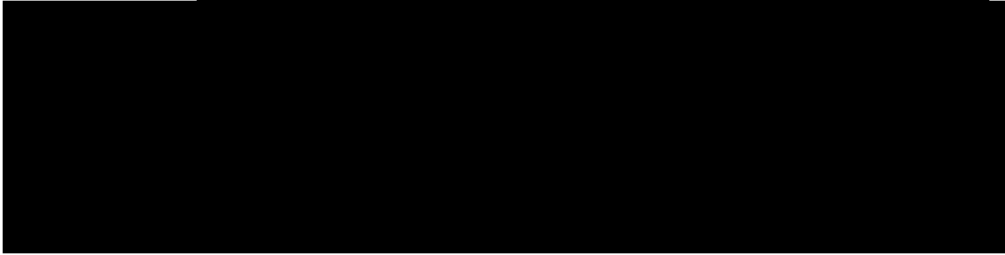
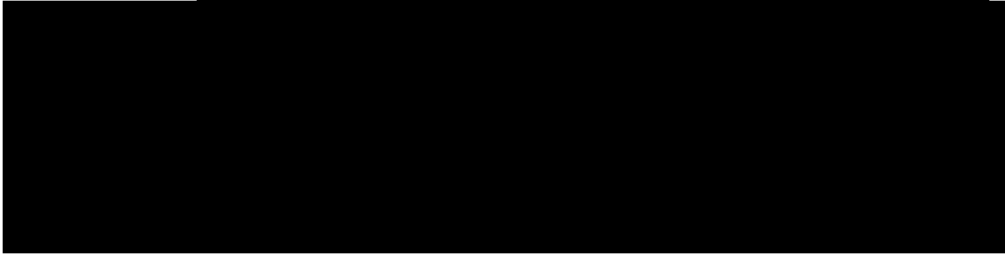
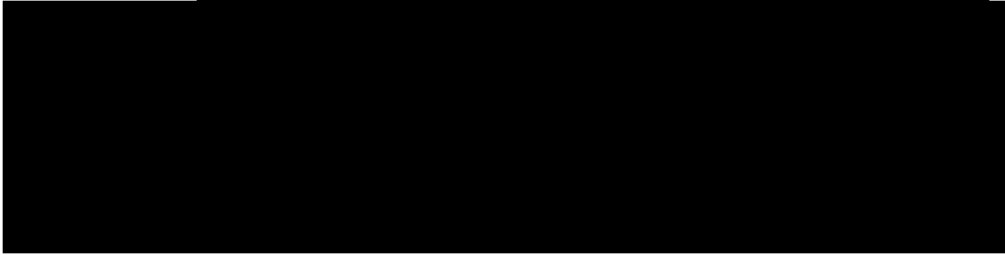
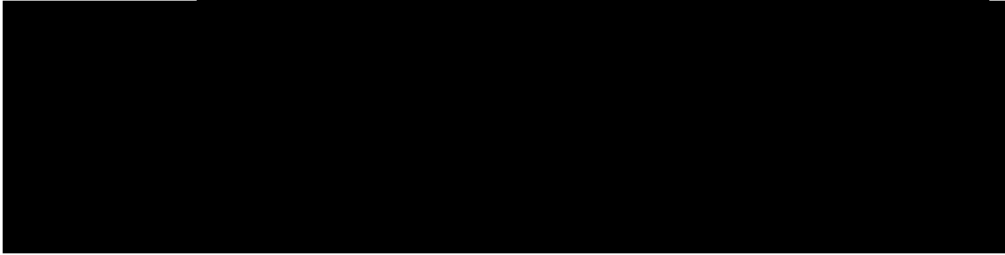
20 LADY SMITH: Before I invite Mr Peoples to call the next  
21 witness, there are a couple of things I want to say.

22 The first relates to the witness John Porteous. As  
23 I have previously made clear, including in the course of  
24 David Whelan's evidence, that a jury convicted him on  
25 four charges on an indictment is established fact. That

1 remains established fact as, I should add, it remains  
2 the fact that two of the charges, the convictions on the  
3 charges, were quashed on appeal on a legal argument  
4 about a legal technicality.

5 The inquiry is aware that John Porteous' position  
6 remains that he denies his guilt of those charges and is  
7 aware that his position is that no apology is offered or  
8 is due. I just wanted to make that clear at this stage,  
9 lest there was any doubt about that or doubt about the  
10 inquiry's understanding of and approach to  
11 John Porteous' evidence.

12 The second thing I wanted to say was to remind  
13 everybody about my restriction order, and as those of  
14 you who have been here throughout this case study will  
15 know, there are restrictions in place, restriction  
16 orders in place, which protect discrete parts of  
17 evidence. 

18   
19   
20   
21   
22 If anybody has any queries about that, please don't  
23 hesitate to speak to inquiry staff. I do appreciate  
24 that it can be difficult to keep track of the  
25 restriction rules, but I ask you to bear with me about



1           that.

2           Mr Peoples, where do we go next?

3 MR PEOPLES: The next witness to give oral evidence wishes  
4 to remain anonymous and has chosen the pseudonym "May".

5                           "MAY" (sworn)

6 LADY SMITH: Please sit down and make yourself comfortable.

7           It's important that you stay in the right position  
8 for the microphone, May, both so that everybody in the  
9 room to the back wall can hear you, and particularly so  
10 that the stenographers can hear you through the sound  
11 system. I'll let you know if you drift away and ask you  
12 to get nearer again.

13                           Questions from MR PEOPLES

14 MR PEOPLES: Good afternoon, May.

15 A. Good afternoon.

16 Q. Can I begin just by explaining that in the red folder in  
17 front of you there should be two statements that  
18 you have provided to this inquiry. I may ask you some  
19 questions about matters in those statements in due  
20 course, but before I get to that stage, for the benefit  
21 of the transcript, I'll give the identification number  
22 of the statements that we have used. The first  
23 statement that you provided is WIT.001.002.1158. The  
24 second statement you provided is WIT.003.001.6196.

25           You should hopefully have these statements in that

1 folder. Is that correct?

2 A. 6199 -- wait a minute, is that before that?

3 LADY SMITH: It'll be three pages before that.

4 (Pause)

5 MR PEOPLES: 1170 should be the final page of the first

6 statement. Have you got that page?

7 A. Hang on.

8 Q. Take your time.

9 (Pause)

10 Have you got page 1170 in front of you of the first

11 statement?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Can I just confirm with you that that's the last page of

14 your first statement and that although you haven't

15 signed that statement, I think can you confirm for us

16 that is the statement that you provided to this inquiry?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. I think, as regards your second statement, if you turn

19 to the final page of that statement, at page 6200, can

20 you confirm that at the bottom right-hand corner

21 you have signed that statement?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And that's your statement?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. May, can I begin by asking you to confirm simply the

- 1 year of your birth and that you were born in the year  
2 1943?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. I propose to begin just by asking about one matter which  
5 you can perhaps tell us a little bit about. Before you  
6 began work with Quarriers, which you tell us about in  
7 your statement, you did have a connection with Quarriers  
8 before then as a child. Can you tell us what that  
9 connection was?
- 10 A. Well, I was originally taken into care in Quarriers when  
11 I was about six months old, I think it was. From there,  
12 I was adopted at the age of 3 and a half, 3 and a half  
13 to 4, by the adoptive parents that I got.
- 14 Q. You can mention the name.
- 15 A. [REDACTED] QCY/QCZ [REDACTED] who were working in Quarriers Homes  
16 at that time. My father was [REDACTED] and had gone as  
17 a job to the village as [REDACTED] and they lived in the  
18 grounds of Quarriers at that time.
- 19 Q. Did they live in a cottage?
- 20 A. No, they lived in a bungalow. My father was employed as  
21 [REDACTED] for the village.
- 22 Q. And what was his name?
- 23 A. [REDACTED] QCY [REDACTED].
- 24 Q. What was your --
- 25 A. [REDACTED] QCZ [REDACTED].

- 1 Q. Did they become house parents?
- 2 A. They did, can I say, by default because after my brother  
3 and I grew up a little bit, my mother decided that she  
4 could take on a part-time job in one of the cottages as  
5 a relief house mother. So she basically went in without  
6 any training, and she was asked to relieve a lady in one  
7 of the cottages who had gone on holiday.
- 8 I think I have to say that many years later she had  
9 not returned from the holiday, so as I say, it was  
10 practically by default that she became a house mother  
11 there, but did have no training at all.
- 12 Q. So she was a relief, but became a permanent  
13 house mother?
- 14 A. Yes, became a permanent house mother?
- 15 Q. In a cottage?
- 16 A. Yes, in a cottage.
- 17 Q. And did that mean that the family moved to a cottage?
- 18 A. Yes, we moved to the cottage.
- 19 Q. And can you remember which cottage it was?
- 20 A. Cottage [REDACTED].
- 21 Q. So your parents -- I'll just call them your parents --  
22 they took over running cottage [REDACTED] as house parents?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. And stayed there with children?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. And was that a cottage for boys or mixed?
- 2 A. Initially it was just for girls.
- 3 Q. Right.
- 4 A. So it was difficult -- the general director at that time  
5 was not too keen on my father even being in the cottage  
6 and my brother. But as my parents said, well, they  
7 weren't having one without the other. My mother  
8 wouldn't go on her own without her husband. So that was  
9 granted and we went as a family.
- 10 Q. So I'm clear then, can you give us an approximate date  
11 when your mother and your father, **QCY** and **QCZ**,  
12 became the house parents at cottage **█**
- 13 A. I was 7, so that's --
- 14 Q. 1950?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. It was after the war, about five years after the end of  
17 the Second World War, that they went to cottage **█** and  
18 you went with them?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. But are you telling me that -- did you call him the  
21 general director?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. Who was that?
- 24 A. He was the chairman, sorry, Dr James Kelly.
- 25 Q. Are you telling me that, so far as girls' cottages, if

- 1 I could use that expression, are concerned that the  
2 chairman, Dr Kelly, really preferred house mothers --
- 3 A. Single house mothers.
- 4 Q. -- single house mothers to look after cottages with  
5 girls?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. But that because your mother insisted that she wouldn't  
8 go without her husband, he relented, if you like?
- 9 A. Yes, it was either that or she didn't stay. She just  
10 was quite adamant that they weren't going to be split.
- 11 Q. Have you any idea, and maybe you can't help us, why he  
12 preferred single house mothers for cottages of all  
13 girls?
- 14 A. I have no idea. I have no idea.
- 15 Q. But that was, as you understand it, the policy?
- 16 A. Yes, I think -- yes, as far as I can remember, yes.  
17 I think that was the policy. I was only a child,  
18 I don't really know about much the politics of that.
- 19 Q. Obviously, you became a house mother yourself in due  
20 course and we'll find out just when that happened.  
21 I think also, your brother [REDACTED] became  
22 a house parent; is that right?
- 23 A. He did, yes.
- 24 Q. And I think he was known as [REDACTED] is that right?
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. I'm thinking, because I know when he was born, was he  
2 also adopted?

3 A. No.

4 Q. He wasn't?

5 A. No, he was their child.

6 Q. He was born as their child, but you were adopted as an  
7 additional member of the family?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. I think he was born in the same year as you?

10 A. Yes, [REDACTED] - and they did adopt another child later  
11 on.

12 Q. So you have this connection with Quarriers as the  
13 daughter of house parents?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And just so that we've got some idea, they became  
16 house parents in 1950, or thereabouts, when you were  
17 around 7 years of age. How long did your parents remain  
18 as house parents at Quarriers?

19 A. They were there until the mid-sixties. I can't tell you  
20 exactly when. They were there until the mid-sixties.  
21 My dad was younger than my mother. I think it was about  
22 1965 when they retired.

23 Q. Okay. I think you've told us in your statement, and  
24 maybe I'll just get a little bit of information on this  
25 matter, that you in fact began working at Quarriers in

- 1           about 1963.
- 2           A. No, it was later than that. I said 1963. I'd been at  
3           college in 1961, 1962, then I went to work in Stirling  
4           for two years, so it was after that.
- 5           Q. Were your parents still house parents when you started?
- 6           A. They were -- now, let me think about this. They retired  
7           just after I started back at Quarriers. I initially  
8           went into a house to be an assistant when I went back,  
9           but I didn't stay with my parents when I went back.
- 10          Q. You've told us, and you tell us in the statement that  
11          you provided, that you left school in 1959. Would that  
12          be --
- 13          A. Yes.
- 14          Q. -- about right?
- 15          A. Yes Christmastime. I was 15 and a half.
- 16          Q. You then, I think -- did you go straight to college  
17          then?
- 18          A. I went straight to Skerry's College in Glasgow, which  
19          was a commercial college, and I didn't stay there too  
20          long because they really put me -- I had done all my  
21          Pitman's exams at school, but they put me back to the  
22          beginning and I wasn't really interested. But I got  
23          a job in a lawyer's office -- I can't remember the dates  
24          that happened.
- 25          Q. Did there come a point when you attended



- 1           Langside College in Glasgow?
- 2       A.   Yes, that was to do the residential care course.
- 3       Q.   And can you remember when you started that course?
- 4       A.   It would be September -- I think it'd be September 1961.
- 5       Q.   You started?
- 6       A.   Yes.
- 7       Q.   And how long was the course?
- 8       A.   It was a year.  But I had done a month's preparation
- 9           placement, which was good for me, having known only
- 10          Quarriers at that time.  I did my first preparation
- 11          placement down in the Borders, in Selkirk.
- 12       Q.   Can you remember where you did it?
- 13       A.   It was in a place called The Priory Children's Home.
- 14       Q.   And who ran that home?
- 15       A.   I think it was a local authority home.
- 16       Q.   Was this just to give you some experience?
- 17       A.   Yes, to give me an idea of what life was like in
- 18          a children's home other than Quarriers.
- 19       Q.   You did this course over a space of -- when you say
- 20          a year, do you mean an academic year or a calendar year?
- 21       A.   A calendar year.
- 22       Q.   And I think you tell us in your statement that you
- 23          obtained what was then a certificate in residential
- 24          childcare; is that right?
- 25       A.   Yes.

1 LADY SMITH: Can you tell me a little about this course?  
2 Was it classroom based, practice based? Mixed?  
3 A. Mixed. Classroom based and we had placements in  
4 different settings. My placements were -- the first one  
5 was in Selkirk, and then I went to a Church of Scotland  
6 home in Lowther Terrace, Westlands, and then I went to  
7 the Lord and Lady Polwarth home in Edinburgh, which  
8 closed shortly after I did a placement. And I did  
9 another placement in Stirling, Stirling Borough  
10 children's home, which was a place at Mar Lodge, up  
11 at the castle at that time. And my last placement was  
12 to a summer camp, school camp, in a children's home in  
13 Inverurie called Cobble Hough. And then a fortnight's  
14 school camp in Kintore with Aberdeen Local Authority.

15 LADY SMITH: Did you come across any nuns on the course at  
16 the same time as you?  
17 A. No -- let me think. There was one lady ... Come to  
18 think of it ... I think there was a nun, but I couldn't  
19 tell you names or anything. It's so far back.

20 LADY SMITH: You went in 1961, you say?  
21 A. Yes.

22 LADY SMITH: Was the course quite new at that point?  
23 A. I think it had been running for two or three years.

24 LADY SMITH: So still in its early stages?  
25 A. Yes.

1 LADY SMITH: I have heard a little bit about the Langside  
2 course in evidence in other case studies; that's why  
3 I was asking you.

4 Mr Peoples.

5 MR PEOPLES: Just so I'm clear from what you told  
6 Lady Smith, you did a number of placements during the  
7 year --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- at Langside?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And you have told us the places you went to in that  
12 year. And you also did class work, is it, where you  
13 attended classes?

14 A. Yes, we had child health visitor classes and child  
15 psychologist classes.

16 Q. I don't know if you're able to tell me, why did you  
17 choose Langside College to do this course?

18 A. That's where the course was run.

19 Q. Was there any other place at which this type of course  
20 was run?

21 A. Not that I know of.

22 Q. In Scotland?

23 A. I don't know.

24 Q. You weren't of --

25 A. No.

1 LADY SMITH: I think you may be right about that from other  
2 evidence I've heard. It was the go-to place because it  
3 was, I think, the only place north of the border.

4 A. As far as I knew, that was the only place.

5 MR PEOPLES: I think maybe at some point there was a similar  
6 course in Aberdeen.

7 A. Well, there was, because I contemplated, later on, going  
8 on to do a further course. There was a reason that  
9 I didn't go on to do it. I don't know whether you want  
10 to know the reason why I didn't.

11 Q. I don't know if it's relevant or not.

12 A. It's relevant to a certain extent. A family that I had  
13 in care, the oldest sibling of that family was just  
14 about to leave me and she said, "Please don't leave,  
15 I need you to look after my brothers for me". And  
16 I felt a pull to that, and I stayed on and looked after  
17 her brothers and didn't apply for the course. I may say  
18 that that family have remained within our family ever  
19 since.

20 Q. Apart from your year at Langside, was that the only  
21 course of that type you did?

22 A. I did a couple of refresher courses at now -- oh, no,  
23 I can't remember the name of the place, some place in  
24 Glasgow that ran refresher courses, day courses. I did  
25 a couple of refresher courses there and one up in

- 1 Pitlochry, I did a course there.
- 2 Q. Are we talking about simply a day-long course?
- 3 A. Yes, really just refresher things and keeping up to date  
4 with changes.
- 5 Q. When you were at Langside College in 1961, did you by  
6 any chance encounter [REDACTED]
- 7 A. I knew them, I knew [REDACTED] prior to that, her and I --  
8 she was in the [REDACTED] and I was, and we met  
9 through that. That was my only association with them  
10 before that. So I didn't really know them as a couple.
- 11 Q. Were they at the college at the same time?
- 12 A. No, they were at the college the year before me.
- 13 Q. You were at least aware vaguely of --
- 14 A. Yes. I didn't really know them. I only knew Helen  
15 through the [REDACTED] and that was the only -- I'd  
16 been to camp with her. That was the only way I knew  
17 her.
- 18 Q. I think we know, actually, that [REDACTED] also joined  
19 Quarriers, around the same time as you did, I think  
20 maybe a little bit earlier.
- 21 A. Before me, and you know, we have remained friends ever  
22 since.
- 23 Q. You became close friends?
- 24 A. Very close friends.
- 25 Q. As well as work colleagues?

1 A. As well as work colleagues, yes.

2 Q. And did you live nearby in Quarriers to each other?

3 A. No.

4 Q. They were in cottage [REDACTED]

5 A. Yes --

6 Q. And you were in cottage -- I think you started in  
7 cottage [REDACTED]

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. And then went to cottage [REDACTED]

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. But they weren't close to each other?

12 A. No. Well, you know, as the crow flies, yes, but not  
13 really. We didn't come across each other in a work  
14 placement. It was really through social activities or  
15 through the church [REDACTED]  
16 [REDACTED] in the village.

17 Q. So far as house parents are concerned, both you and  
18 [REDACTED] apart from being house parents, did form  
19 a social friendship?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And became very close?

22 A. We went on holiday with them several times and, yes, we  
23 did. We're still close friends.

24 Q. You tell us, I think, that having completed your course  
25 at Langside College, you went to work at Quarriers;

1 is that right?

2 A. Correct, yes.

3 Q. And you said 1963. Is that --

4 A. That's a little bit early.

5 Q. You think it's a little bit early?

6 A. Absolutely, yes.

7 Q. At any rate, you joined Quarriers --

8 A. Sorry, it must have been 1964, going on 1965 because

9 I had my 21st birthday while I was still working in

10 Stirling.

11 Q. Okay.

12 A. Because I remember that.

13 Q. Just so I'm clear, when you went to do this certificate

14 in residential childcare at Langside College, did you

15 need to have that qualification to work at Quarriers?

16 A. No, I didn't need to have it, but I wanted to do it.

17 I felt that all I knew of Quarriers was what my parents

18 had done and I just wanted to see whether changes, even

19 then, could be made in the practices there. So I was

20 just willing to go and do this course and I was young

21 enough to do it.

22 Q. Therefore you're suggesting that maybe there were

23 changes over time and I think you will maybe tell us

24 about this in your evidence. In your parents' time

25 then, were there practices then that you saw that caused

- 1           you concern?
- 2           A. Not of great concern, but I just felt I wanted to know  
3           if there were other ways of doing things.
- 4           Q. In what areas in particular?
- 5           A. Well, it was a village concept and looking back, at that  
6           age I really wasn't thinking too much about why was  
7           I doing the course, I just wanted to go into childcare  
8           and thought, well, this avenue is open to do this  
9           course. And if I was accepted for it, then I would go  
10          on to it. So I really -- honestly, I can't say just  
11          exactly what drove me.
- 12          Q. Maybe I can ask you this though: was there discussion  
13          during your year at Langside College of models of care,  
14          residential care, and whether the village concept was  
15          still considered an appropriate concept or model?
- 16          A. No, I just got the feeling from others putting forward  
17          views that Quarriers was not an acceptable place.
- 18          Q. That type of model?
- 19          A. Because it was a village concept, yes.
- 20          Q. A large village in --
- 21          A. And you know, right at that time I just couldn't  
22          understand what they were talking about. And it was  
23          only as I did placements in other places that I realised  
24          that maybe things weren't, you know -- I wanted to learn  
25          about doing things differently than what my parents had



1 done, or my mother particularly.

2 Q. Whatever was going on in other parts of the country in  
3 terms of models of residential care, you did go to  
4 Quarriers to work?

5 A. Yes, I did eventually go -- I mean, I'd had two years in  
6 Stirling, which I thoroughly enjoyed, I enjoyed the  
7 experience, but I was never going to move up in the  
8 profession there. And I just thought if I go back to  
9 Quarriers -- and to be quite honest, I'm a Christian and  
10 I felt that I was being drawn back to Quarriers for some  
11 reason, I didn't know just what.

12 But I thought if I can go back and I get my own  
13 cottage, then I'd have -- I thought I could handle the  
14 responsibility of being in charge of a group of children  
15 rather than just being one of maybe a staff of about six  
16 people. That helped me to make up my mind.

17 Q. When you went to Quarriers in maybe 1964 or 1965, would  
18 you be one of the few people that would have this  
19 qualification in residential childcare at the time?

20 A. I expect so, yes. I knew [REDACTED] had, but  
21 I don't know anyone else that had.

22 Q. And at that time, and indeed in subsequent years, did  
23 there ever come a point where Quarriers insisted that  
24 their house parents obtain this qualification or an  
25 equivalent?

1 A. I don't know if they insisted on it. I think they  
2 encouraged it. They tried to encourage people to go on  
3 this course. I do know of one or two people who did go  
4 on to it.

5 Q. If a person was an existing house parent, long  
6 established without the qualification that you obtained,  
7 they didn't require them to attend this college or  
8 obtain some qualification?

9 A. I really wasn't privy to all that kind of information.

10 Q. You tell us, obviously, that you got to Quarriers in  
11 1964 or 1965, and initially you were working, you say,  
12 as a care assistant, until you became a house mother.

13 A. Just for a short time.

14 Q. When you say care assistant, is that what we sometimes  
15 are told is a cottage auntie?

16 A. Cottage auntie, yes.

17 Q. Is that the same thing?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. So a care assistant is cottage auntie?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And you were working as one --

22 A. Yes, just for a short time.

23 Q. Can you remember which cottages you were assigned to?

24 A. I was assigned to cottage [REDACTED] There was a Mrs Burns who  
25 was the house mother. I worked with her just for

1 a short while. And then the lady in cottage [REDACTED] was  
2 going to be in hospital for a long period -- I didn't  
3 know what was wrong with her, but I was then asked if  
4 I would take over her cottage.

5 Q. Who was that?

6 A. A Miss [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. I was asked if I would  
7 take over that cottage, and it was during my time  
8 in that cottage that I was -- Mr Mortimer came and saw  
9 me and said, "I think you're ready for your own cottage,  
10 would you be interested in taking on cottage [REDACTED]  
11 I jumped at the chance and I said, "Yes, I think I am  
12 ready", because I had made a few changes in this cottage  
13 that I thought were good practices, and I felt that  
14 then, yes, I think I could do this.

15 Q. So when approximately did you move to cottage [REDACTED]

16 A. I knew you were going to ask me that. I can't tell you  
17 exactly the dates. I know it was the beginning ... It  
18 was the beginning of the year, so it would probably be  
19 about 1966, 1965/1966. 1966, I think. It was a very  
20 horrible day that I moved in --

21 Q. Maybe you're not a football fan, but it was a famous  
22 year for the World Cup. I don't know if that helps you.

23 A. No, it doesn't really, no.

24 Q. I'll maybe try again at some point.

25 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples, with joyful thoughts of football,

1 is it a good time to have the mid-afternoon break?

2 MR PEOPLES: Yes, I'm happy to have it at that point.

3 (3.08 pm)

4 (A short break)

5 (3.18 pm)

6 LADY SMITH: Are you comfortable again, May?

7 A. Yes.

8 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples.

9 MR PEOPLES: May, before the short break we were discussing  
10 the roles you had at Quarriers after you joined  
11 Quarriers in 1964 or 1965. I suppose we were trying to  
12 work out when you became house mother in cottage [REDACTED] but  
13 you are not precise?

14 A. Near enough, I think.

15 Q. What, 1966? Early 1966 perhaps?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. But it wasn't that long after you had actually come to  
18 Quarriers and had been working as an assistant?

19 A. That's right.

20 Q. And you were promoted effectively?

21 A. That's right.

22 Q. Going back to your qualification, did the fact that you  
23 had a qualification in residential childcare provide you  
24 with any additional remuneration? Do you remember?

25 A. I don't think so.

1 Q. You didn't get any extra money for having --

2 A. No, there wasn't much money available in Quarriers at

3 that time.

4 Q. It wasn't a particularly well paid job anyway?

5 A. It was not, no.

6 LADY SMITH: But you were provided with accommodation;

7 is that right?

8 A. We were provided with accommodation, yes, within the

9 house -- well, as an assistant I stayed in the house

10 that was there for assistants to live in.

11 MR PEOPLES: I think we've heard of staff quarters in one of

12 the cottages.

13 A. That is right.

14 Q. Did you stay there initially?

15 A. Yes, I did.

16 LADY SMITH: As a matter of interest, do you remember what

17 you were paid when you started working there when you

18 became a house mother.

19 A. I'm sorry, I can't remember.

20 LADY SMITH: It's just that some of us remember what was on

21 our first payslips!

22 A. No, I can't remember.

23 MR PEOPLES: So your first cottage is cottage [REDACTED] You're at

24 that stage, and I think I know a little bit because of

25 the other evidence, that you were the house mother and

- 1           in fact the single house parent in that house.
- 2           A. That's right.
- 3           Q. Would you have had a cottage auntie to help you?
- 4           A. Initially, I was on my own. But as my cottage grew in  
5           number, I got an assistant and we worked just between  
6           us. When she was on her days off, I was on my own, and  
7           when I was on my days off, she was on her own.
- 8           Q. How many children approximately were in cottage [REDACTED] when  
9           you took over?
- 10          A. When I first got my cottage, I got my first family of  
11          seven children. I had these seven children just for  
12          a few months. I had them on my own. Then it gradually  
13          built up until I had 13 children. Because of the size  
14          of cottage, it was 13 children, other ones, other  
15          cottages had maybe 14 or 15 children.
- 16          Q. Can you remember who was the house parent or parents in  
17          cottage [REDACTED] before you took over?
- 18          A. That house had lain empty for at least a year. I think  
19          before that it was a Miss Lindsay and her mother.  
20          I think the two of them ran of it.
- 21          Q. So if it had lain empty for a while and then you took it  
22          over --
- 23          A. It had lain empty for at least a year.
- 24          Q. -- they effectively started to use it again?
- 25          A. Yes.

- 1 Q. Was the idea, because I think when you said -- was it  
2 a single family of seven children?
- 3 A. It was a family of seven children.
- 4 Q. Was the intention, when cottage [REDACTED] re-opened,  
5 effectively, after a year, to use it to keep large  
6 families together?
- 7 A. Not necessarily. I did ask at the time -- when I was  
8 invited to take on that house, I said, "Would it be  
9 possible to get children just coming into Quarriers, not  
10 children that had been in other cottages?" I felt  
11 I wanted a fresh start with children coming into care.  
12 And yes, that was granted. So the first family was one  
13 of seven. I can't remember all the children that I had  
14 coming in in dribs and drabs, but eventually I got  
15 a family of -- well, there was five in that family, but  
16 one of the youngest ones was still in the baby homes, so  
17 it was a family of four that came in.
- 18 Q. Cottage [REDACTED] when you took it over then was that a mixed  
19 cottage?
- 20 A. It was mixed.
- 21 Q. Was that the norm or was that as unusual at the time?
- 22 A. It was becoming the norm, yes.
- 23 Q. But it hadn't fully changed to or not?
- 24 A. Again, I'm not into all the politics of Quarriers.  
25 I wasn't ... But I just know that I had a mixed

1 cottage.

2 Q. And just --

3 LADY SMITH: Why did you want children that were new to  
4 Quarriers?

5 A. I just felt that they would not have got into ways of  
6 other house parents and they would not have to be  
7 dislodged from another cottage to come to me. I just  
8 felt if families were coming in from outwith, it was  
9 just a thing I had in my mind. It maybe wasn't of any  
10 relevance to anything really.

11 MR PEOPLES: That rather suggests that at that time, at  
12 least, different cottages worked with different  
13 practices and different regimes because it would have  
14 been easy enough to move from one cottage to another if  
15 everyone had the same regime.

16 A. I think I saw that in the cottage that I had taken over  
17 for that short time, that the lady that ran it -- I just  
18 felt unhappy about some of the things in that cottage.  
19 I thought, if I can have my own cottage with children  
20 coming in, then I would know what I wanted to do.

21 LADY SMITH: What were you unhappy about?

22 A. One of the things that made me a bit concerned was -- it  
23 may sound trivial, but I felt it was important. The  
24 children didn't have their own clothes. There was  
25 a huge cupboard in the playroom where the children just



1 scrambled into it and grabbed whatever fitted them and  
2 I didn't like that practice. I thought the children  
3 should all have their own clothes and if they had to be  
4 named with their name on it, then I would do that. That  
5 was something.

6 I do know that the children that were there -- in  
7 fact one of them lives down in London and she would  
8 still say to me, "You did the right thing in doing  
9 that". I think that was just something I had a bee in  
10 my bonnet about.

11 MR PEOPLES: I think after you moved to cottage [REDACTED] as  
12 a house mother, perhaps in the early part of 1966, you  
13 worked in that capacity for a while, and did you then  
14 get married?

15 A. I got married in [REDACTED]

16 Q. I think, as we understand, when you got married, your  
17 husband came to join you at Quarriers; is that right?

18 A. That's right, yes.

19 Q. As I understand it, he joined in the capacity as [REDACTED]  
20 [REDACTED]?

21 A. That's correct, [REDACTED].

22 Q. But of course, because you were a house mother, he also  
23 became a house father in reality?

24 A. Well, yes, but he was never known as a house father.

25 Q. No, his job was [REDACTED].

1 A. He was invited to become a house father, as were all the  
2 men, the fathers in the cottage were invited to become  
3 house fathers at one stage. I can't remember when. And  
4 there was two or three of them and QKY, he was one of  
5 them, who said, "No, I don't want to, I'm not a good  
6 darner and I'm not a good cook, so don't ask me to go  
7 into the house to do things like that, I want to keep my  
8 job as [REDACTED].

9 Q. You can't maybe remember when this invitation or offer  
10 was made --

11 A. It must have been about 1971/1972.

12 Q. Were you in cottage [REDACTED] at that stage?

13 A. We moved to cottage [REDACTED] yes. We were in cottage [REDACTED] in  
14 late 1970, I think it was, because our daughter was born  
15 in 1971 and she was born into cottage [REDACTED]

16 Q. Do you think then it would have been cottage [REDACTED] when this  
17 opportunity or offer was made --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- but your husband didn't want to take up that offer?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Did this represent to some extent a policy position that  
22 Quarriers were wanting people to be either  
23 a house father or have some other job?

24 A. Well, they were given the choice.

25 Q. Yes, but was that what they were trying to do, you

1           either had to be a [REDACTED] or a house father but  
2           not both?

3           A. You could be both -- well, no, let me see. If they  
4           worked -- say the man worked in the store, which was  
5           primarily a 9 to 5 job, or a 9 to 4 job, or a 9 to 3  
6           job, then it was easy for him to go into the role in the  
7           evenings of being a house father, whereas my husband's  
8           job required him to be available in the evenings and  
9           therefore he wanted to carry on.

10          Q. I see. So there were some jobs where, really, it would  
11          be difficult to be a house father at all times?

12          A. To give it the full commitment of that, yes.

13          Q. But there'd be other jobs, if the house father worked,  
14          say, locally or in the village, they could work from 8  
15          until 5 or 9 to 5 and then --

16          A. Yes, they were very flexible as far as that was  
17          concerned.

18          Q. -- still be a house father in a fuller sense?

19          A. Yes.

20          LADY SMITH: How often did your husband have to do [REDACTED]  
21          [REDACTED] work in the evening?

22          A. Well, he had to [REDACTED] to all the cottages  
23          once a month.

24          LADY SMITH: Were those in the evening?

25          A. A lot of them were in the evening because if children

1           were out at school during the day and a lot of the  
2           evening -- a lot of that was held in the evening. I'm  
3           not saying it happened -- it obviously didn't happen  
4           every night, but he had other commitments, and if there  
5           were any emergencies within the village, he had to be on  
6           call.

7           LADY SMITH: How often did emergencies occur?

8           A. Well, when you had people [REDACTED], they were  
9           always [REDACTED], so he was  
10          often called out to attend to things, and if there was  
11          things having gone missing in cottages, if there was  
12          children -- you know, had broken into places, he was  
13          called out, along with Bill Dunbar.

14          LADY SMITH: Sorry, why him for a break-in?

15          A. I think because of the safety -- I don't know why, but  
16          he did -- he was called out.

17          LADY SMITH: All right.

18          MR PEOPLES: While he may have had these responsibilities,  
19          I don't think you're seriously suggesting, are you, that  
20          he didn't spend quite a bit of time in cottage 7?

21          A. I'm not saying that, no.

22          Q. I just want to be clear. Yes, he would be out doing his  
23          [REDACTED] responsibilities sometimes in the  
24          evening --

25          A. Yes.

- 1 Q. -- but he would still be in the cottage and he could  
2 still perform some of the functions of a house father,  
3 and did so, did he not?
- 4 A. Well, that depends what you mean by functions.
- 5 Q. What would be the normal role of a house father?
- 6 A. I don't know; I never had a house father.
- 7 Q. No one ever explained to you what a house father did?
- 8 A. I would presume that they would do much the same as what  
9 the house mother did.
- 10 Q. And what was that?
- 11 A. Well, just generally look after the children. I can't  
12 ever remember him doing homeworks and things like that.  
13 If it was a wet evening and we were having maybe  
14 a mixture of games in the playroom or something, he  
15 would come in and join. I can remember him teaching the  
16 children how to make plaster cast models. He would just  
17 get involved maybe in that kind of thing. He was not  
18 involved in putting children to bed or making suppers  
19 and things like that; that was my job.
- 20 Q. Was he around at mealtimes?
- 21 A. He was around at teatime, yes. Supper times, he didn't  
22 have anything to do with that kind of thing for the  
23 children.
- 24 Q. So you've got married, you and your husband were  
25 initially in cottage [REDACTED] but moved to cottage [REDACTED] --

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. -- in maybe the late 1970s? And am I right in thinking  
3 that you remained a house mother and remained in  
4 cottage [REDACTED] until some time in about 1974 or 1975?
- 5 A. We moved from cottage [REDACTED] in 1975.
- 6 Q. Where did you go?
- 7 A. We went to cottage [REDACTED]
- 8 Q. What was the reason for that?
- 9 A. I was just going to tell you the reason for that. By  
10 that time, I had a number of teenagers and I felt that  
11 they needed a little bit more privacy in their bedroom  
12 instead of having maybe four or five in a bedroom.  
13 Cottage [REDACTED] had more rooms in it, more bedrooms in it,  
14 and that was the reason that we thought -- I approached  
15 Mr Mortimer and asked if there was a chance because  
16 I felt that the older girls needed a bit more privacy  
17 and that's why we moved.
- 18 Q. But am I right in thinking you didn't stay in cottage [REDACTED]  
19 very long?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. You moved to somewhere called [REDACTED]
- 22 A. We left the cottage after I moved to cottage [REDACTED]
- 23 Q. And was there a particular reason why you were only in  
24 cottage [REDACTED] for a short time?
- 25 A. Yes. After I'd had my second child, I was quite unwell,

1 she was very premature and I didn't have much time off  
2 after she was born. That was probably partly my own  
3 fault, I just ploughed myself back into the work a bit  
4 too soon, and was diagnosed with [REDACTED]  
5 and I had been quite unwell and I felt I just couldn't  
6 cope with the running of the cottage. So it was health  
7 reasons that made us move.

8 In retrospect, if Quarriers had said, yes, you could  
9 maybe have six months' leave of absence, that would have  
10 been fine because that was what I needed, I needed  
11 a break. But we left the cottage. [REDACTED] QKY carried on with  
12 his work, but we moved into a house [REDACTED]  
13 within Quarriers.

14 Q. Can you tell us just approximately how long you were in  
15 cottage [REDACTED] then before this?

16 A. Just a few months.

17 Q. Okay. So far as the move from cottage [REDACTED] to cottage [REDACTED]  
18 is concerned, was it just you and your husband who  
19 transferred or did children and young persons go with  
20 you from cottage [REDACTED]

21 A. All the children that we had in cottage [REDACTED] went with us.

22 Q. They moved with you?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Was that a mixture of boys and girls?

25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. What sort of ages were they?
- 2 A. Our youngest I think at that time was 5, around 5 --
- 3 I think they were all at school -- and the oldest would
- 4 probably be about 15, 14 or 15.
- 5 Q. You tell us in your statement that you left cottage [REDACTED]
- 6 in, I think, about 1974 and you mentioned cottage [REDACTED]
- 7 You say you returned to working in 1976, so I take it
- 8 you did have a spell when you were not working around
- 9 that time?
- 10 A. That's correct.
- 11 Q. And when you resumed working, you took up a position as
- 12 an assistant caring for children with Down's syndrome.
- 13 Where were you working then?
- 14 A. That was just for a short time. It was up in one of
- 15 what had been one of the baby homes, Campbell Maltman.
- 16 Q. Okay.
- 17 A. I was offered a wee job up there and I took it.
- 18 Q. Then I think you went on to work in what you describe as
- 19 elderly care until you retired in 2001.
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. And that was in a different building?
- 22 A. That was back in cottage [REDACTED]
- 23 Q. Okay. You retired in 2001?
- 24 A. Yes; I was made redundant then.
- 25 Q. I see.



- 1 A. [REDACTED]
- 2 [REDACTED] I retired then.
- 3 Q. You've told us a bit about your training and background  
4 before you came to Quarriers and the fact that you had  
5 a certificate in residential childcare. So far as  
6 Quarriers is concerned, you got the job and you told us  
7 that there was maybe the occasional training day that  
8 you can remember?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. I got the impression that there wasn't much additional  
11 training that you received once you joined.
- 12 A. There wasn't, no, no, no.
- 13 Q. Did you at any stage receive any formal child protection  
14 training?
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. Did you at any stage receive any training in relation to  
17 the specific matter of child abuse --
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. -- including things like warning signs, indicators of  
20 abuse and other matters? Did you get training of that  
21 kind?
- 22 A. No, it was never forthcoming, no.
- 23 Q. During your time in Quarriers -- and I'm thinking  
24 particularly of your time as a house mother -- which  
25 I think would have been between 1966 and 1974/1975 --

- 1 A. Yes, 1975.
- 2 Q. -- that's really the period I'm focusing on when I'm  
3 talking about house mother. Did you, during that  
4 period, so far as you can recall, get any guidelines or  
5 instructions that were issued to you on childcare  
6 matters that you can recall? Was there any system  
7 whereby you would receive guidance and instructions from  
8 time to time?
- 9 A. Well, we had a monthly meeting with the director of  
10 care, a general meeting. But it wasn't -- I think it  
11 was supposed to be about issues within the cottages with  
12 children. Generally, it ended up as, "I was a chop  
13 short in the butcher meat this week", or, "There wasn't  
14 enough mince". It became just ridiculous. So there  
15 wasn't really anything ...
- 16 Q. Can I take it that really the answer is, so far as any  
17 sort of guidelines are instructions in relation to  
18 childcare matters, that really didn't happen?
- 19 A. No.
- 20 Q. And specifically, did you ever get any guidelines or  
21 instructions issued to you on corporal punishment or  
22 chastisement of children in your care?
- 23 A. Not really, no. We were always told -- I remember being  
24 told that, yes, it's your cottage and you will be left  
25 to run it and only if you need me to come in and

1           chastise the children, if you need that, then I will do  
2           it. So you were pretty much left to your own, you  
3           know ... what you felt was the right thing to do.

4       LADY SMITH: Who said that?

5       A. Sorry, the director of care.

6       LADY SMITH: The name?

7       A. Mr Mortimer.

8       LADY SMITH: Mr Mortimer.

9       MR PEOPLES: That individual that you've just mentioned,  
10           Mr Mortimer, he became the director of childcare --  
11           I think he's sometimes called a superintendent, is that  
12           another term?

13       A. Yes. Before he came to the village, it was the  
14           superintendent we had, so he was ...

15       Q. And Mr Mortimer, am I right in thinking that when you  
16           joined Quarriers in early 1966, he was in post?

17       A. He had just came into post.

18       Q. He was a recent appointment?

19       A. Yes.

20       Q. Who was the chair or the general director at that stage?

21       A. The general director was Dr Davidson. He had been  
22           a medical doctor when I was a child, but he took on the  
23           role as the general doctor.

24       Q. And did he succeed Dr James Kelly?

25       A. Yes. Yes, I think so.

1 Q. Is that a name that means anything to you?

2 A. Oh Dr Kelly, yes.

3 Q. Whether he did or he didn't, Dr Davidson was

4 a long-standing --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- official within Quarriers initially as a medical

7 officer?

8 A. He was a medical --

9 Q. With responsibilities at the Elise Hospital?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And the epileptic colony?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. And any other places?

14 A. The children's home.

15 Q. Sanatorium?

16 A. No, he didn't have anything to do with that.

17 Q. He didn't do the sanatorium?

18 A. No.

19 Q. But there came a point when Dr Davidson was replaced by

20 Dr Minto?

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. When did that happen?

23 A. Dr Minto came in, let me think now, 1974.

24 Q. Right. So Dr Davidson was there for --

25 A. He was still there. Dr Davidson then resumed his

1           responsibilities in the medical profession. He would  
2           take over -- if the doctor that we had was on sick leave  
3           or on holiday, Dr Davidson would take over that role.

4       Q. Who was normally the medical officer?

5       A. At that time it was Dr Maurice, Graham Maurice.

6       Q. M-A-U-R-I-C-E?

7       A. Yes.

8       Q. Because there was a Jean Morris, but I think she came  
9           later as a psychologist?

10      A. Yes.

11      Q. And that's M-O-R-R-I-S?

12      A. Yes.

13      Q. No relation then, obviously?

14      A. No relation, no. Dr Maurice came with Dr Minto. They  
15           had both served out in Kalimpong, in Dr Graham's Homes  
16           there, and Dr Maurice had been the doctor out there and  
17           when Dr Minto came I think that was about the same time  
18           as Dr Maurice.

19      Q. When Dr Minto came, was it roughly around the time that  
20           you ceased to be a house mother?

21      A. I was still a house mother when he came.

22      Q. But not for long?

23      A. He came in September 1974 and the reason I remember it  
24           was because he came and was introduced at the  
25           thanksgiving service, which was held annually in

1           September, and the children in our cottage had decided  
2           that my daughter should attend that service -- I didn't  
3           want her to be there because she was only 3 years of  
4           age, and consequently she spent the time racing around  
5           under the book boards and causing mayhem in the  
6           church --

7           LADY SMITH: Can you remind again where the Dr Graham's  
8           Homes were that you referred to? Were these the ones in  
9           India?

10          A. Kalimpong in India.

11          LADY SMITH: I think they still operate children's homes out  
12          there, don't they?

13          A. Mm-hm, they are.

14          MR PEOPLES: Since you will know some of these individuals  
15          and we want to know a little bit about how they were,  
16          the ones that were in sort of overall charge, you've  
17          told us that Dr Davidson was replaced by Dr Minto in the  
18          role of the general director in 1974 and that  
19          Joe Mortimer came a little bit before you.

20          A. Yes, just around about the same time.

21          Q. I don't know whether you're able to help us, but before  
22          then, have you ever heard of someone called Roy Holman?

23          A. Yes, I think when I went for my interview Roy Holman was  
24          there but then Joe Mortimer was there and he was the man  
25          that I had dealings with.

- 1 Q. And Roy Holman wasn't there for very long?
- 2 A. No.
- 3 Q. Before then, can you help us? Was someone called
- 4 Hector Munro --
- 5 A. Yes, Hector Munro was there when I was an child.
- 6 Q. Was he --
- 7 A. He was the superintendent.
- 8 Q. And then was it Roy Holman took over for a short time?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. And then Joe Mortimer?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. And Joe Mortimer was there for quite a long time?
- 13 A. Yes, he was.
- 14 Q. And so far as -- well, Dr Davidson is a medical man
- 15 obviously?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. From what you've said Dr Minto's background was in
- 18 education?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. And you've told us that Bill Dunbar, who I think we
- 21 understand is really the number two to Joe Mortimer
- 22 in the pecking order?
- 23 A. He became that, yes. I didn't know what Bill's role was
- 24 really, to be honest. But he worked in the office.
- 25 Q. And seemed to be the number two, did he?

- 1 A. Yes, I think he became the assistant director.
- 2 Q. He, of course, had a social work background,  
3 Bill Dunbar, because he went to Langside College, as did  
4 his wife?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. And I think Joe Mortimer had a social work background as  
7 well.
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. I was asking you about guidelines and instructions on  
10 childcare matters, including corporal punishment, and  
11 you've told me what the position was in the period you  
12 were a house mother. Can I ask you this: I appreciate  
13 you underwent a certain amount of -- you underwent  
14 residential childcare training at Langside in the early  
15 1960s.
- 16 A. Mm-hm.
- 17 Q. Would I be right in thinking that, at that time, the  
18 course you took did not have any focus on child  
19 protection training or training in child abuse, or  
20 am I wrong?
- 21 A. Not that I can remember.
- 22 Q. So would it have assisted you, when you were the  
23 house mother between 1966 and 1975, to have received  
24 some guidance and instruction on childcare matters,  
25 including corporal punishment?



- 1 A. Yes, it would have, uh-huh.
- 2 Q. Did you ever ask for guidance or instruction, and if so  
3 from whom?
- 4 A. No, I didn't.
- 5 Q. Why was that?
- 6 A. Because -- well, I don't know, I was just getting on  
7 with my job. It was a very arduous job at times and you  
8 just spent all your time doing what you had to do.
- 9 Q. We understand that during the period you were  
10 a house mother, between 1966 and 1975, there came a time  
11 when Quarriers established what essentially was  
12 a social work -- an in-house social work department, and  
13 there were various social workers in that department,  
14 including people like George Gill.
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. And others, other names, and they were in-house  
17 social workers?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. Did you have dealings with those in-house social workers  
20 from time to time?
- 21 A. Yes, I did, I had dealings with both the external  
22 social workers and the internal ones.
- 23 Q. And who was the internal social worker or social workers  
24 that you had most dealings with?
- 25 A. Margaret Orr -- she'd be Margaret Nicholson now -- she

1           was assigned to our cottage.

2       Q.   Was that the position in 1966?

3       A.   No, no.  She wasn't there then.

4       Q.   Was there anyone there doing that role?

5       A.   No.  In 1966, if I wanted to -- we were very limited in

6           what information we got on any children coming into

7           care.  But if I wanted to find something, if I felt

8           I needed to ask, it was the external social worker

9           I contacted.

10      Q.   For the child that was placed?

11      A.   For the child that was placed.

12      LADY SMITH:  When, so far as you can remember, was the

13           system of in-house social workers established?

14      A.   That was established -- I think it was about 1970,

15           around that period.

16      LADY SMITH:  Some time after you were married?

17      A.   Yes.

18      LADY SMITH:  Can I just go back a moment.  This is

19           a slightly different matter, but you mentioned earlier

20           that your job was a very arduous one at times.  Tell me

21           a little more about that.

22      A.   Well, when I took over, when I got my cottage with the

23           children, 13 children, and quite often I was just on my

24           own.  We had no washing machines.  You could have up to

25           six bed-wetters at a time.  You had to attend to all the

1 children's needs, which was my job. I never complained  
2 about anything -- and I have thought about that long and  
3 hard: I didn't complain about it, I just got on with the  
4 job of looking after these children. But looking back,  
5 it was -- it was steady, hard work.

6 LADY SMITH: Did you also do the cooking?

7 A. Yes.

8 LADY SMITH: Did you do any cleaning?

9 A. We had a cleaner who came in until 2 o'clock during the  
10 week. Weekends, we had nobody in.

11 LADY SMITH: So that was all down to you?

12 A. Yes.

13 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples.

14 MR PEOPLES: Just to go back to the social workers, I think  
15 we probably know that this in-house social work  
16 structure was set up around the time you've said.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And before then, do I understand there really wasn't  
19 that sort of structure in place?

20 A. No.

21 Q. So far as the -- Margaret Orr, you said, or Nicholson,  
22 is she related by marriage to Joseph Nicholson?

23 A. She's the daughter-in-law of Joseph Nicholson.

24 Q. So far as the in-house social workers were concerned,  
25 did you get support from the social worker, the in-house

1 social worker? Because you've just described to  
2 her Ladyship that it was an arduous job and you had  
3 a lot of things to do.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. What sort of support do you think you got?

6 A. I don't reckon I got much support, to be honest.  
7 Margaret became more a friend to the children than  
8 ourselves. I can't really say. I honestly preferred  
9 dealing with the external social workers.

10 Q. One thing that I think we've heard in evidence was that  
11 the external social workers might change and frequently  
12 you'd get someone that was different from the one  
13 before, they didn't necessarily know a lot about the  
14 children they were visiting.

15 A. I think I was very fortunate because there was a great  
16 deal of stability in the external social workers I  
17 had --

18 Q. In terms of the people who came?

19 A. In terms of the people who came -- I'm not saying the  
20 internal social workers didn't help in some respects,  
21 but I always felt that if I wanted to know something or  
22 if I wanted help with a particular area, I could -- and  
23 I was given the freedom to still contact the external  
24 social worker if I felt that was what I wanted to do.

25 Q. I think I saw in some documents we've been given by

1           Quarriers that as late as 1965 there was still  
2           a significant number of children who were what we would  
3           describe as voluntary placements. They hadn't come  
4           through the local authority. What was the position when  
5           you were the house mother between 1966 and 1975?

6           A. The children I had all came through social work,  
7           local authority.

8           Q. So they were all placed by the state?

9           A. Yes.

10          Q. But you're not suggesting that was the position  
11          universally during that period?

12          A. I don't know.

13          LADY SMITH: Can I just check one thing: you told us earlier  
14          that you finished up your time as a house mother very  
15          shortly after your second child was born.

16          A. Yes.

17          LADY SMITH: And you had been a house mother for about  
18          five years, I think, by then; is that right?

19          A. Yes.

20          LADY SMITH: What was the age gap between your children?

21          A. Three years.

22          LADY SMITH: So you'd spent a bit of that five years, quite  
23          a bit of that five years, being pregnant and having your  
24          own children as well, had you?

25          A. Yes.

- 1 LADY SMITH: And you'd still done all these jobs?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples.
- 4 MR PEOPLES: You've told us something about the situation  
5 about guidance on childcare matters and indeed the  
6 matter of child protection, training. Can you help me  
7 with this: in the period from 1966 to 1975, when you  
8 were the house mother, firstly in cottage [REDACTED] and then  
9 cottage [REDACTED] and for a short time cottage [REDACTED] what were the  
10 child protection arrangements in place at Quarriers to  
11 protect children from danger, including the risk of  
12 abuse?
- 13 A. I can't remember anything being in place. I certainly  
14 wasn't aware of anything.
- 15 Q. Just on another matter, you've told us already that you  
16 can't recall getting any guidelines or instructions of  
17 a general nature on childcare matters and indeed  
18 including on the matter of corporal punishment or  
19 chastisement. Did you get any instructions as  
20 house parents that you were expected to follow, that you  
21 can recall?
- 22 A. I can't recall.
- 23 Q. Can I turn to a different matter. You would get visits  
24 as a house mother -- during the period you were  
25 house mother, you'd get visits from local authority

1 social workers -- I think they were called childcare  
2 officers or child welfare officers before 1968.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. You'd get visits from them; is that right?

5 A. From the children's social workers?

6 Q. Yes.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Would that vary depending on which authority you were  
9 dealing with?

10 A. Just ... It might have done, but I just remember --  
11 I can vividly remember social workers coming to visit  
12 the children on a regular monthly basis.

13 Q. When these visitors, these social workers -- I'll just  
14 call them social workers, but I'm including the previous  
15 terminology when I say that -- when they visited in the  
16 period you were a house mother, would they talk to the  
17 children?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Would they talk to them outwith your presence?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Would they talk to them individually?

22 A. I don't know. I'm thinking on families where they would  
23 take the children out if they came -- particularly one  
24 from Edinburgh, he was a very regular visitor and he  
25 would come and have lunch with us and take the boys out

1 for the afternoon. Another one who came from  
2 Dumbartonshire and she would take the children -- and in  
3 fact she came once and brought her husband down and they  
4 took the children out.

5 I can't remember really much more than that.

6 Q. We've heard some evidence that there were people that  
7 I think are described as lady visitors that would come?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. Who were they?

10 A. They were local ladies, Lady Maclay, Lady Yarrow,  
11 Lady Lithgow, these sort of people from round about our  
12 area, who volunteered to become what was known as a lady  
13 visitor. And they would be assigned one or two cottages  
14 to visit and they could come any time. They would just  
15 appear. And they would come in and maybe have a cup of  
16 tea with us. Then, as the children came in from school,  
17 they were free to go in and chat to the children, and  
18 that was it really.

19 Q. And did they chat to the children?

20 A. Yes, any that I had.

21 Q. Did they write anything down?

22 A. No, they would then go and hold a meeting with  
23 Mr Mortimer about their visits. We were never --

24 Q. You weren't privy to that?

25 A. No.



1 Q. But do you say that these meetings that would occur  
2 after the lady visitors had turned up would they be  
3 immediately after the visit?

4 A. Well, I presume that they would just get together and  
5 say, right, we've all done our monthly visit and we'll  
6 have a meeting, and that was it.

7 Q. But they weren't writing anything down?

8 A. Not that I know of. I don't know. Not in the cottage.

9 Q. You would have seen them in the cottage?

10 A. Yes. They didn't write anything down in my presence.

11 Q. Were any of them qualified childcare experts?

12 A. Not that I know of no. They were just volunteer visits.  
13 The one thing I can remember they did for us was to get  
14 us washing machines.

15 Q. Yes. So they might be able to swing something if  
16 something was needed?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Their function wasn't to protect children?

19 A. No, no, not at all.

20 Q. From danger or --

21 A. No. But if a child -- I think, as far as I can  
22 remember, if a child wanted to, they could talk to them,  
23 and I presume if they -- maybe they did in other  
24 cottages, I don't know, whether children had any  
25 complaints or anything. I never heard of any

1 complaints. I never questioned my children after they  
2 had been, anyway.

3 Q. They weren't a complaints body that children could talk  
4 to?

5 A. No. I think if there had been any complaints, then that  
6 would have been dealt with. But I don't know.

7 Q. Do you think a vulnerable child who might have been 8,  
8 9, 10 would find the confidence to talk to Lady Maclay  
9 or Lady Someone-else about his problems?

10 A. Probably not.

11 Q. Realistically?

12 A. Realistically.

13 Q. You've dealt with vulnerable children?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Do you not accept they find it difficult perhaps to tell  
16 things to adults?

17 A. Oh yes. I don't think they would. We were told that  
18 was their role, to be available if any of the children  
19 wanted to talk to them. If we needed anything  
20 specifically in the house -- like I can remember because  
21 of the bed-wetting situation, they got us nylon sheets  
22 instead of the big heavy cotton sheets that we had when  
23 we were trying to get them washed and dried, it was  
24 slightly easier, things like that.

25 LADY SMITH: Would I be right in thinking that these ladies

1           would dress rather differently than the mothers in the  
2           environments that the children had come from?

3           A. I never gave that any thought.

4           LADY SMITH: Would they have different accents? Did they  
5           speak differently?

6           A. I suppose they would have done, yes.

7           LADY SMITH: It would have been obvious to the children that  
8           they came from a rather different world, wouldn't it?

9           A. Well, yes, although the likes of Lady Maclay, she was in  
10          and around the village a lot, and the children, I think,  
11          were quite used to seeing her. She was always in church  
12          on a Sunday and would speak to the children if she saw  
13          them. But I think, yes, that's ...

14          LADY SMITH: And you said that was Lady Maclay not  
15          Lady Maclean?

16          A. Maclay.

17          MR PEOPLES: M-A-C-L-A-Y?

18          A. Yes.

19          Q. She was the wife of --

20          A. Lord Maclay.

21          Q. Who's quite a prominent figure in Scottish life?

22          A. Yes, she was 105 when she died.

23          Q. Just on another matter, did you keep a log during your  
24          time as a house mother?

25          A. Yes.

- 1 Q. A daily log?
- 2 A. If necessary, if there was something I needed to record  
3 in it, yes. But it was handed in once a month, I think  
4 it was.
- 5 Q. Can you just help me with this? What did this log look  
6 like?
- 7 A. It was just a folder like this (indicating), similar to  
8 this. And you had a section for each child and you just  
9 recorded if there were any punishments meted out, if  
10 there was anything -- school reports, anything had gone  
11 on at school or if there was something particular, you  
12 know, birthday times and things like that: so-and-so had  
13 a birthday party and that sort of thing. It was just  
14 general things that were put into it.
- 15 Q. Who told you what to put into it -- or did anyone tell  
16 you?
- 17 A. No, we weren't told what to put in it.
- 18 Q. You weren't given any guidance?
- 19 A. We also weren't told when it was checked that there was  
20 anything wrong with what we'd put in it.
- 21 Q. So no one came to you and said, "I'm not happy with what  
22 you're recording"?
- 23 A. No.
- 24 Q. That was never said to you?
- 25 A. No, not to me. I don't know if it was said to anyone

1           else.

2           Q. But you were the person that determined what would go  
3           into the log?

4           A. Yes.

5           Q. It was your judgement?

6           A. Yes. I think probably my assistant would be -- her and  
7           I would get together if there was something we felt we  
8           needed to talk about together and put in.

9           Q. You told us that the file or folder that was used as  
10          this log had divisions for each child; is that right  
11          then?

12          A. Yes.

13          Q. So each child would have their own section in the file?

14          A. Yes.

15          Q. So that someone could immediately go to child A rather  
16          than child B and see what was written about them?

17          A. Uh-huh, uh-huh.

18          Q. This logbook was taken on a monthly basis, you think, to  
19          the main office?

20          A. Yes.

21          Q. Did you take it there?

22          A. No, I think it was the social worker that -- I can't  
23          remember. I really can't remember. I'm sorry.

24          Q. But you think it could have been the social worker. You  
25          don't have a memory of taking it?

1 A. No. I may have taken it down to the office. I just  
2 can't remember.

3 Q. If you were --

4 A. Or he came to the house, occasionally he would come to  
5 the house.

6 Q. He?

7 A. Mr Mortimer.

8 Q. Occasionally?

9 A. Yes. He wasn't in the house very often.

10 Q. I was going to ask you that. How often would he come?

11 A. Very, very seldom.

12 Q. I suppose -- did you keep this log from 1966 right  
13 through to 1975?

14 A. I don't think I had it initially. I don't think there  
15 were any logbooks when I first took over.

16 Q. Whose idea was it then to establish a logbook?

17 A. It would be Joe Mortimer's.

18 Q. But he was in place in 1965 or 1966.

19 A. I don't think he had ... I just ...

20 Q. You don't remember there being this logbook at the start  
21 of your time as a house mother? It came in later?

22 A. It came in later, yes.

23 Q. But you seem to link it to a time when there were  
24 social workers, in-house social workers, so do you think  
25 it may have started around that time when they

1           established the social work team?

2       A.   Possibly.  I really couldn't --

3       Q.   You're clear that there was, at least for part of the

4           period --

5       A.   A logbook.

6       Q.   -- a logbook that you entered details for each child

7           from time to time?

8       A.   Yes.

9       Q.   But not on a daily basis?

10      A.   Not necessarily on a daily basis.

11      Q.   And you determined what went into it?

12      A.   Yes.

13      Q.   But one thing that did go into it, am I right in

14           thinking, was any punishment given to any child?

15      A.   Yes, I think it would be.

16      Q.   Well, I'm just --

17      A.   Yes.

18      Q.   That's something you felt had to be recorded

19           faithfully --

20      A.   Yes.

21      Q.   -- from the time that the logbook was established --

22      A.   Yes.

23      Q.   -- until the time you left?

24      A.   Yes.

25      Q.   And so far as punishment and discipline was concerned,

1           when you were making this record what were you  
2           recording? Can you remind us of the type of entry you  
3           would make?

4           A. You're going back an awful long time.

5           Q. Well, you were a house mother for quite a long period of  
6           time.

7           A. Yes. If a child had been caught stealing or something  
8           like that, you would record that -- to be honest, we  
9           didn't really have many problems within our cottage as  
10          far as having to give punishments to ... You could talk  
11          to a child and say, you know, "Don't do that again", and  
12          that would be the end of it.

13          LADY SMITH: May, just going back to what you were being  
14          asked --

15          A. Sorry.

16          LADY SMITH: It wasn't so much what misdemeanours were  
17          committed by children but what was the nature of  
18          a punishment that would be given to the child? What  
19          would you be writing down about the punishment?

20          A. Well, if a child ... I can only remember saying, right,  
21          okay, they were going to have to go to bed early  
22          tonight, you're going to have to do without television,  
23          something like that. I can't really remember giving out  
24          many punishments.

25          MR PEOPLES: But May, that may be what you did as a form of



1           punishment, but what I'm asking about is what you  
2           recorded in the book about punishments.

3       A. I do not remember.

4       Q. You don't remember?

5       A. I don't remember.

6       Q. But you think that you did record punishments?

7       A. If there were any punishments to be recorded, they would  
8           be recorded, but I don't remember.

9       Q. So if this logbook was established around the same time  
10           as the social work team were established, in around  
11           1970, and you were a house mother for five years, you  
12           don't have any memory from that five-year period as to  
13           what you were putting into this log?

14       A. You know, you're bringing back memories: yes, I remember  
15           having to punish a boy for stealing, stealing money from  
16           another house mother, from another cottage. And the  
17           punishment was that he had to pay that money back from  
18           his own pocket money.

19       Q. So you recorded the offence?

20       A. I would record that, yes.

21       Q. And you recorded the punishment given?

22       A. Yes.

23       Q. And if the punishment was something different, would  
24           you have recorded the type of punishment routinely? If  
25           it wasn't taking money out of pocket money or a loss of

1 a privilege like TV, would that all be recorded, the  
2 type of punishment?

3 A. Yes, it would have been.

4 LADY SMITH: This taking the money and the punishment was  
5 having to pay it back, I'm not quite understanding how  
6 that's a punishment because it wasn't his to keep, the  
7 money had to be returned to the person whose money it  
8 was. Was there not a punishment in addition to that?

9 A. No.

10 LADY SMITH: No other sanction?

11 A. In that instance, Joe Mortimer was involved in that  
12 because there was another child from another house  
13 involved, so he would be the one that would -- he would  
14 be the one that would say that this is what I had to do.

15 MR PEOPLES: Can I just continue on the theme of the  
16 logbook? This logbook that you've told us about would  
17 be taken to the main office periodically on, I think,  
18 a monthly basis. Presumably it was supposed to be  
19 looked at; by whom?

20 A. By Joe Mortimer.

21 Q. Anyone else?

22 A. Possibly if it was during the time of the internal  
23 social workers, she would be there.

24 Q. When you got the logbook back, would there be an  
25 indication that these individuals had looked at it like

1 a signature or a date?

2 A. There would be a signature.

3 Q. Would that be the normal way of indicating it had been  
4 seen and read?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. How quickly was the logbook returned?

7 A. Within a day or two.

8 Q. And then you'd continue to write it up?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And how many logbooks did you go through in the period  
11 from 1970 to 1975?

12 A. I do not know.

13 Q. More than one?

14 A. I would imagine so, yes.

15 Q. I was going to say, if there were 12 children, each with  
16 a section, and that was the position over five years --

17 A. I can't remember whether pages were taken out of it and  
18 stored somewhere else in their main office or something,  
19 I don't know.

20 Q. You don't remember that?

21 A. No, I don't remember.

22 Q. When they took it and looked at it, if they removed  
23 pages?

24 A. I do not know.

25 Q. You don't know?

- 1 A. No.
- 2 LADY SMITH: But it was loose leaf?
- 3 A. Yes, I think, yes.
- 4 MR PEOPLES: These divisions that you've talked about, apart  
5 from having divisions in the file, were you using  
6 pro forma pages or simply A4 paper with lines?
- 7 A. It was lined paper.
- 8 Q. Was it a pro forma?
- 9 A. No.
- 10 Q. If you needed a new logbook, who would you go to?
- 11 A. Somebody in the office, you know, the main office.
- 12 Q. Can you remember doing that?
- 13 A. No.
- 14 Q. Can you help me with this? We understand -- in fact  
15 we've been given in this inquiry information that has  
16 been taken from what's called children's files kept by  
17 Quarriers. Do you know if individual files were kept on  
18 each child or on the family that the child belonged to  
19 by Quarriers? Do you know that?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Where were they kept?
- 22 A. They were kept in the main office or somewhere.
- 23 Q. And did you have access to those?
- 24 A. No.
- 25 Q. Did you ever ask to have access to them?

1 A. Yes, I did.

2 Q. Did you get access?

3 A. I didn't get access, but I was told what I wanted to  
4 know.

5 Q. Because it may have contained relevant information you  
6 wanted to find out?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. But you don't have a memory of ever having the file  
9 handed over to you --

10 A. No.

11 Q. -- that you could look at --

12 A. No.

13 Q. -- in the cottage or --

14 A. No.

15 Q. -- somewhere at your leisure?

16 A. No, we were not given those files.

17 Q. And you may not be able to answer this, but the logbook  
18 that was delivered to the main office periodically and  
19 perhaps every month, the information that was recorded  
20 there, do you know whether that information or any of it  
21 was transferred from the log to a child's file?

22 A. I have no idea.

23 Q. You have no idea?

24 A. No. I only on two occasions over the last few years  
25 have had access -- I've seen files belonging to two

1 people who wanted to see their files and they asked if  
2 I could be present. They invited me to be present when  
3 they were looking at their files. That's the first time  
4 I'd ever seen ...

5 Q. These logbooks that were kept at least for part of the  
6 time you were a house parent, at least in your cottage  
7 and you understood may have been kept in other cottages,  
8 what happened to them when you left your role as  
9 house mother?

10 A. I have no idea.

11 Q. Did you hand them back?

12 A. Oh yes, they would be handed back, yes.

13 Q. To the main office?

14 A. No, they might not have been handed back because  
15 somebody else took over in the cottage. I don't  
16 remember.

17 Q. You can't remember what --

18 A. I wasn't asked to hand them back.

19 Q. Did you ever see one after that?

20 A. No.

21 Q. But I suppose if there was something -- how many  
22 cottages were still receiving children in the period  
23 1970 to 1975?

24 A. Well, probably about 30 or ...

25 Q. 30 cottages maybe? How many children?

1 A. You're talking about 13, 14 children to a cottage.

2 Q. 350 to 400 children perhaps? And if there was a logbook  
3 in each cottage with a division for each child over  
4 a five-year period, there should be quite a lot of  
5 material there.

6 A. There should be, yes.

7 Q. But you don't know where that material --

8 A. No, that's nothing to do with me, really.

9 Q. Who was in charge of keeping the records?

10 A. I don't know. It was Bill Dunbar or ... It might have  
11 been Bill Dunbar.

12 Q. Just one other matter on processes, if you like. In  
13 your period as a house mother from 1966 to 1975, were  
14 you ever aware that there was anything that would  
15 represent a formal complaints process that children  
16 could use?

17 A. Sorry, can you repeat that?

18 LADY SMITH: I think you said 1966. But May didn't become  
19 a house mother until -- oh, it was 1966, sorry.

20 MR PEOPLES: I think I've got the period right.

21 LADY SMITH: You're right. It's the dates for different  
22 cottages that I mixed up.

23 MR PEOPLES: In the period from 1966 to 1975, when you were  
24 a house mother, were you ever aware of there being in  
25 place a formal complaints procedure or process that

1 children could use to make complaints?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Or raise concerns?

4 A. No. Not a formal thing. They had access to  
5 social workers, they had access to Joe Mortimer. They  
6 had the freedom to go and see him if they were concerned  
7 about something.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. I can remember that being exercised, but it was  
10 something -- it wasn't a serious complaint about -- it  
11 wasn't a complaint about something that I was doing  
12 wrong or that -- they just went en masse to Joe Mortimer  
13 on a relatively simple matter.

14 I'll tell what you it was. When Dr Davidson was  
15 retiring, they decided, the admin staff decided that  
16 they would make a photograph album of all the cottage  
17 families, and the children came in from school at  
18 lunchtime and I said, "Right, hurry home this afternoon  
19 to get yourselves -- face washed, hair tidied up, you're  
20 going to have your photograph taken", "What's this for?"  
21 "This is for a photograph album for Dr Davidson". They  
22 turned to my daughter, who was about 3 at that time --  
23 yes, she would be just 3, "That's great, you're going to  
24 have your picture taken this afternoon", and I said,  
25 "No, she's not, because it's only for the children that



1 are in care". And they said, "We don't think that's  
2 fair", and I said, "Well, that's the rule that's been  
3 made, off you go back to school".

4 Half an hour later I got a phone call from  
5 Joe Mortimer, "Could you come across to the office?"  
6 When I went across, five or six of my children were  
7 standing in his office complaining bitterly that this  
8 infant was not to be allowed to have her photograph  
9 taken.

10 It sounds trivial, but they believed -- and I think  
11 rightly so -- that my child had been born into that  
12 family and that was our family and my daughter -- they  
13 declared -- they declared it -- that she was part of  
14 that family and why shouldn't she be included in this.

15 And the rule was changed so that she could be in it,  
16 but it was them that used their initiative to go and do  
17 something about that. Just a wee thing that happened.

18 Q. Can I turn to discipline and punishment in particular  
19 and ask you something about that. You have told us  
20 there were no guidelines or instructions in your time  
21 between 1966 and 1975 on this matter, although you say  
22 you might have benefited from such guidance, had it  
23 existed. Can I be clear from the outset about this  
24 matter? Is it the case that you did from time to time  
25 use corporal punishment to punish children in your care?

1 A. No, I don't remember using corporal punishment.

2 Q. You didn't?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Okay. It's just that -- I may have picked this up  
5 wrongly from your written statement, but at page 1168 of  
6 your first statement --

7 A. This is "Discipline and punishment"? I'm looking at it  
8 just now.

9 Q. If we start at 1168, what you tell us there is you don't  
10 remember a lot of discipline or punishment.

11 A. That's right.

12 Q. You tell us really what you've told us before, that  
13 there wasn't any written or unwritten guidance given to  
14 you by your employer, by the organisation. You tell us  
15 the sort of things that might result in a sanction, as  
16 you put it, were stealing, swearing, fighting, telling  
17 lies, bullying, that sort of thing. Yes?

18 And you tell us that:

19 "In the case of stealing, what could happen is  
20 a child would have to return what they had stolen, for  
21 bullying lie-telling and fighting, the child was removed  
22 from the room, spoken to and asked to apologise, and  
23 sometimes would be told they could not watch television  
24 that evening."

25 Who would do the telling?

1 A. Myself.

2 Q. Would your husband ever do that?

3 A. I don't recall him having to do anything like that.

4 Q. And you say that:

5 "I administered the sanctions unless they were more

6 serious and then the director of care would be

7 involved."

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And the director of care would be Joe Mortimer?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. You recall in your statement at 1169 that you only once

12 had to call in the director of care?

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. But that looking after 13 children, what you describe

15 with minor behavioural problems were almost a daily

16 occurrence?

17 A. Sorry?

18 Q. Well, what you -- do you see the sentence --

19 LADY SMITH: Have you got --

20 A. Yes, they were almost a daily occurrence, yes. Children

21 are children and if they choose -- if they misbehave or

22 something, yes, you always had to ... You know ...

23 I think in a normal household, your mum and dad would be

24 having to say to one of the children at least, once

25 a day, "Don't do that". So it was a daily occurrence --

1 not always. It could be a daily occurrence.

2 MR PEOPLES: So you did have children that -- I take it they  
3 were vulnerable children, by definition, I think from  
4 being in care, but some would presumably present quite  
5 challenging behaviour at times?

6 (Pause)

7 Yes?

8 A. I don't remember.

9 Q. Can I remind you what you said in your statement?

10 A. I'm looking at the statement.

11 Q. At the next paragraph on page 1169:

12 "Children were only physically punished ..."

13 And this is your words:

14 "... if they became hysterical in a tantrum and all  
15 other methods of calming them had failed."

16 The way I read that is that physical punishment  
17 would be used in certain circumstances in your cottage.

18 A. Yes. I don't remember physically punishing anyone.

19 Q. Well, who did?

20 A. I don't know.

21 Q. Well, why did you write that?

22 A. I don't know, I really don't.

23 Q. It's your recent statement.

24 A. Yes. I know, I know. I would have to look on the  
25 written statement that I had for that.

1 Q. Well, this is your statement.

2 A. I didn't type this, I got this typed for myself.

3 Q. Well, you sent it in.

4 A. Yes, I know. I know, I know, I know.

5 Q. I'm only trying to get to what you mean. You're saying

6 that --

7 A. Well, yeah, if you mean a smack on the bottom --

8 Q. Did that happen?

9 A. Yes, it did happen.

10 Q. Did you have any other form of physical punishment?

11 A. No.

12 Q. What about a clout?

13 A. No.

14 Q. A slap?

15 A. No.

16 Q. A clout round the ear?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Did you ever say that to anyone in the past at

19 interviews or --

20 A. No.

21 Q. Were you asked about this by the police?

22 A. No, I don't think so.

23 Q. Were you never interviewed?

24 A. Yes, I was interviewed. I can't remember.

25 Q. You can't remember what you said then?

1 A. No, I can't remember what I said 16 years ago.

2 Q. But your memory now is you don't -- you think you might  
3 have given a child a slap on the bottom?

4 A. A smack on the bottom.

5 Q. And what do you mean by that?

6 A. Well, "Don't do that again" (indicating).

7 Q. Using your hand, your open hand?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. To smack them?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Would that be on the bare bottom?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Would it be with some force?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Would it be --

16 A. Just don't do that again.

17 Q. Would it be painful?

18 A. I don't think so.

19 Q. If children said that the smacks they got were painful,  
20 would you be disagreeing with that?

21 A. I think I would, yes.

22 LADY SMITH: May, let me just remind you of something that  
23 was put on the document that came to you from the  
24 inquiry. You probably remember it because it's at the  
25 beginning of the part that has your handwriting on it

1 below.

2 You were told that you have the right not to admit  
3 to committing any crime, including the abuse of  
4 children, and if you're asked any questions that might  
5 tend to seem to be directed to asking you whether you  
6 committed any crime against any child, you are entitled  
7 not to answer. You have a right, as we say, not to  
8 incriminate yourself. It's important you understand  
9 that because, if you do answer, anything you say could  
10 be used in other proceedings at a later date. Do you  
11 appreciate that?

12 A. Yes.

13 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples.

14 MR PEOPLES: So what you're telling us in your written  
15 statement is that from time to time there would be  
16 children who became hysterical and were in a tantrum and  
17 they would receive some form of physical punishment;  
18 is that right? That's what you're telling us?

19 A. I'm not answering.

20 Q. You're not answering that one, okay.

21 I'll just put this question to you, but bear in mind  
22 what Lady Smith has just said.

23 Was it the case that you used corporal punishment to  
24 punish children in your care?

25 A. I didn't use corporal punishment.

- 1 Q. No slap?
- 2 A. I'm not answering.
- 3 Q. Am I right in thinking that Quarriers, if I understand  
4 your evidence so far, did not, as you recall, have any  
5 rules or guidelines that you were expected to follow  
6 considering the use of punishment or sanctions?
- 7 A. There was no guidelines.
- 8 Q. Did you consider it was left to you to decide what form  
9 of punishment would be administered and what form that  
10 punishment would take? It was for you to decide?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Again, I'll ask you this question, but be reminded of  
13 what you've just been told.  
14 Did you ever give a child a clout on the ear?
- 15 A. Not answering.
- 16 Q. Or a slap on the legs?
- 17 A. Not answering.
- 18 Q. Have you ever told anyone that you might have done that?
- 19 A. I do not recall that.
- 20 Q. When you received the childcare training that you've  
21 mentioned in your evidence, what were you taught about  
22 discipline and chastisement of children in residential  
23 care? Can you recall? Were you taught anything?
- 24 A. I don't remember.
- 25 Q. You don't remember.



1 A. We had sessions on childcare, child health, child  
2 development, but I can't remember ever there being  
3 a session on punishment or that kind of thing.

4 LADY SMITH: So May, just to be clear, in circumstances  
5 where, as you have written, children might become  
6 hysterical in a tantrum -- you've written that, May. In  
7 such circumstances, you had no guidance or training to  
8 draw on to help you work out how to handle it? Have  
9 I got that right?

10 A. Yes.

11 LADY SMITH: Thank you.

12 MR PEOPLES: And whatever training you had, both from  
13 Langside College and in these three days that you  
14 mentioned during your period in Quarriers, none of that  
15 training equipped you to deal with this sort of  
16 situation, the hysterical child, the child that was in  
17 a tantrum and how to handle that situation?

18 A. I can't answer. I can't answer that. I can't answer  
19 because I don't know -- I don't recall.

20 Q. You don't recall getting training in dealing with that  
21 situation?

22 A. Uh-huh.

23 Q. You can't recall getting that?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Okay. Well, I take it that if you did get training, one

1 thing that it would not have taught you is to give them  
2 a clout or slap on the ear on the legs.

3 A. I take it that's right, yes.

4 Q. We've talked about guidelines and you've told us you  
5 didn't get any guidelines or instruction, so do I take  
6 it that you didn't get any instruction about the use of  
7 corporal punishment from your line manager, who I take  
8 it would be Joe Mortimer?

9 A. No.

10 Q. You never got that at any time?

11 A. No.

12 LADY SMITH: Am I right in thinking in 1966, when you first  
13 became a house mother, you must have been about 23?

14 A. Yes.

15 LADY SMITH: And you carried on being a house mother until  
16 you were about 32?

17 A. Yes.

18 LADY SMITH: So you were quite young?

19 A. Yes.

20 MR PEOPLES: May, at this stage, just in conclusion, I'm  
21 going to ask you some questions, but again, I think  
22 I should make clear that I'm going to ask you some  
23 questions about specific allegations that have been made  
24 about you and your husband in relation to the children  
25 in your care because we've had evidence, in particular

1 evidence from Mr **QLG**, which described what I could  
2 say is a catalogue of abuse by your husband and you  
3 in the form of physical abuse, emotional abuse,  
4 psychological abuse and so forth.

5 That's the introduction, but I'll ask you to bear in  
6 mind what her Ladyship has said about your position in  
7 this matter today. But I'm going to put certain matters  
8 to you and you can decide whether you wish to make any  
9 response to this.

10 It has been said that your husband was involved  
11 in the force-feeding of children; did that happen?

12 A. No.

13 Q. It didn't happen?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Or you didn't see it happen?

16 A. It didn't happen.

17 Q. It has been said that there were times when a child who  
18 didn't eat their meal would have that meal re-served by  
19 you; that didn't happen?

20 A. It didn't happen.

21 Q. And I think you say in your statement on that matter, at  
22 page 1161, your position is if a child didn't like food,  
23 they were asked why and given an alternative. Maybe you  
24 want to look at that, it's page 1161 of your first  
25 statement.

1           You tell us that staff and children ate together.

2       A.   Mm-hm.

3       Q.   And you say on that page under the section "Mealtimes":

4           "If a child did not like the food they were asked  
5           why and given an alternative, bread and butter most  
6           probably, but mostly the children ate well."

7           So is that your position on that?

8       A.   Yes.

9       Q.   Indeed, you say:

10           "The children were encouraged to eat, but if they  
11           didn't, the food would be removed until they felt like  
12           eating."

13           That might suggest on one reading that they got the  
14           food again.

15       A.   It's not very well put.  No, no, they weren't given the  
16           same food at any other meal.  That never happened.

17       LADY SMITH:  Not given it reheated?

18       A.   No, no.

19       MR PEOPLES:  So far as matters of physical abuse are  
20           concerned, there has been some evidence of things that  
21           it is said your husband did to children, and you I think  
22           will have some knowledge of what has been said, such as  
23           things such as grabbing or pulling children by the hair.

24       A.   No.

25       Q.   You say that didn't happen?

1 A. It didn't.

2 Q. Punching and kicking?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Beatings?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Making children stand in a line and interrogating them,  
7 picking a child out, grabbing them, dragging them to the  
8 shed and giving them a beating?

9 A. No. That did not happen in my cottage.

10 Q. And I think that we've heard some evidence that from  
11 time to time you would give children a slap.

12 A. No.

13 Q. No?

14 A. No.

15 Q. And we've heard evidence that there was a shed or  
16 outhouse at the back of cottage ■ is that right?

17 A. Yes, all the cottages had a shed.

18 Q. Yes, I think we have found that out. What has been said  
19 is that this shed was from time to time used as a place  
20 of punishment --

21 A. Never.

22 Q. -- mainly by your husband, but there would be times if  
23 he was not there, that you would put people in the shed?

24 A. No.

25 Q. That didn't happen you say?

- 1 A. That never happened.
- 2 Q. And that you might say something along the lines of,  
3 "You'll wait there until Uncle QKY comes home"?
- 4 A. Categorically that never happened.
- 5 Q. We've heard evidence that at times threats would be used  
6 and, for example, that we were told that when  
7 QLG said he would be reporting your husband for  
8 physical abuse, he was threatened that your husband  
9 would have him sent to borstal.
- 10 A. That never happened.
- 11 Q. And he would say something along the lines of, "Remember  
12 what happened to [REDACTED]"
- 13 A. No, that never, ever happened.
- 14 Q. What did happen to [REDACTED]"
- 15 A. [REDACTED] left us and went to [REDACTED]"
- 16 Q. She didn't go to [REDACTED]"
- 17 A. Her social worker came and arranged for her to go  
18 somewhere. I can't remember where it was, but she left  
19 and she went to [REDACTED] and repeatedly came back to see  
20 us.
- 21 Q. It has been said that you would from time to time make  
22 hurtful remarks about a child or a member of the child's  
23 family or be verbally abusive to children.
- 24 A. I knew nothing about his family, I'll tell you that now.  
25 I knew nothing about his family, so I would not be

1 saying anything about his family.

2 Q. Because he was in care, you would know that he wasn't  
3 with his family.

4 A. Yes, I knew, but I didn't know anything about his  
5 family. I didn't know their whereabouts. I didn't know  
6 why he had been brought into care.

7 Q. According to evidence we've heard, you said things such  
8 as, "Your mother never wanted you".

9 A. No, I knew nothing about his parents.

10 Q. I'm just asking, did you say that?

11 A. I didn't say that because I didn't know anything about  
12 it.

13 Q. Did you say, "You'll never do any good"?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Did you ever bait Mr [redacted] at mealtimes when he didn't  
16 want to eat some food?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Did you know he didn't like pineapple?

19 A. [redacted]

20 [redacted]

21 Q. I'm just asking you the question here. [redacted]  
22 [redacted] Did you know he  
23 didn't like pineapple?

24 A. No, I didn't know. [redacted]  
25 [redacted]

1 Q. Do you ever remember saying to [REDACTED] QKZ that, "Your  
2 mother never wanted you, your kids will end up in care  
3 like yourself with no mother"?

4 A. No, I knew nothing about their parents, so I would not  
5 be casting anything up to them about their parents.

6 Q. And I think that we are aware that [REDACTED] QKZ made  
7 a statement to the police. She's now deceased, but  
8 we have the statement she made, and she did mention that  
9 there was an incident in which you were involved,  
10 involving a chest of drawers where you pulled out the  
11 drawers, emptied them and told her to tidy them up when  
12 she was 13 years of age. Do you remember that?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Did it happen?

15 A. I know nothing about that.

16 Q. You know nothing?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Could it have happened?

19 A. I don't know, I don't remember.

20 Q. You don't remember?

21 A. I know nothing about that. I never, ever heard that  
22 statement or I've never heard that she had given  
23 a statement to the police or anything -- because she  
24 came to visit me to tell me that she was appalled at  
25 what [REDACTED] had done. She visited [REDACTED]



1 house and told her that and then told me. So I can't --  
2 I don't know nothing about what [REDACTED] QKZ said to  
3 anyone else.

4 Q. You'll appreciate I'm putting it to you for comment  
5 because we've seen evidence that she did say these  
6 things and she said them to the police.

7 A. I don't know anything about that evidence.

8 Q. I'm just putting it to you in case you can help us.

9 She also told the police -- and I think we heard  
10 evidence about this in the inquiry -- that there was an  
11 occasion when she was bleeding when she was aged about  
12 14, when she was out on a pushbike and she came home --  
13 you are shaking your head?

14 A. I know nothing about this.

15 Q. She came home and asked for a plaster. You asked what  
16 she needed the plaster for, where she was cut, and she  
17 pointed to her private parts, and she was having her  
18 period and she said that you, in the presence of other  
19 children, announced that fact and caused her to feel  
20 embarrassed. Do you remember that happening?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Did you give her education about having periods and  
23 development? Do you remember doing that?

24 A. I don't remember.

25 Q. Do you remember talking it through with her?

1 A. I don't remember.

2 Q. You don't remember?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Would that be something you did with the older girls?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. But you don't remember doing it with her?

7 A. **QKZ** was 14, I think, when she came to me, so I don't

8 really recall. I recall nothing about any of this with

9 **QKZ**.

10 Q. Do you remember an occasion involving **QKZ** when

11 she ran from cottage **█** to Mr Mortimer's house and he

12 came to cottage **█** to speak to you and your husband after

13 something that had happened upstairs and she came down

14 with her nose bleeding because she had suffered some

15 injury?

16 A. I know nothing about that.

17 Q. You can't help us?

18 A. No.

19 Q. What we heard was that in cottage **█** there was some

20 rumpus when **QKZ** was upstairs and that she came down

21 with blood pouring out of her nose, went to Holmlea, and

22 she came back to cottage **█** with Mr Mortimer.

23 There was a conversation with you and your husband,

24 and I think **QKZ** was there, and that she later told her

25 brother, "The bastard's made me apologise to him";

1 that's your husband. But against a background where she  
2 told the police, and indeed she told [REDACTED] at the  
3 time, that your husband had pushed her against a sink  
4 deliberately.

5 A. I know nothing about it.

6 Q. And she said shortly after that, she was gone from the  
7 cottage. She left shortly after that incident, if that  
8 helps you put a timescale on it.

9 A. It doesn't help me at all because I know nothing at all  
10 about this.

11 Q. She said during the conversation there was something  
12 said by Mr Mortimer along the lines that if she was to  
13 make it a formal complaint then your husband might be  
14 gone or lose his job and that was a very serious thing  
15 to do and she was asked to reflect on it. You don't  
16 remember any of that?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Do you say it didn't happen or you don't remember it?

19 A. I don't know anything about it.

20 Q. You don't remember it or it didn't happen?

21 A. It didn't happen.

22 Q. Do you ever remember an occasion when [REDACTED] QLG  
23 kicked you?

24 A. No.

25 Q. No?

- 1 A. He didn't kick me. He didn't kick me.
- 2 Q. What did he do?
- 3 A. He did nothing to me. That didn't happen in my cottage.
- 4 Q. Because I think --
- 5 A. [REDACTED] he was found to be  
6 telling lies, one lie after another. That happened to  
7 him in the previous cottage. That was one of the  
8 reasons we got him from another cottage because he had  
9 caused nothing but trouble. He's been so inconsistent  
10 in all that he says. That did not happen with me.
- 11 Q. What I will tell you is that what we heard on this  
12 matter was that he recalled an occasion where you kicked  
13 him and he kicked you back, and your husband wasn't in  
14 the cottage, but when your husband got back he obviously  
15 was told about the matter, according to Mr [REDACTED] 's  
16 account, your husband called for [REDACTED] to come down, as  
17 he was halfway down the stairs your husband dragged him  
18 to the shed and was smacking him around the head and  
19 then he sent him to his bed. Do you remember any of  
20 that?
- 21 A. No, that didn't happen.
- 22 Q. And in fact on that occasion, he tells us that he  
23 suffered some form of injury to his ear, which caused  
24 excruciating pain and indeed at some point caused blood  
25 to come from his ear and spill on his pillow. Do you

1 remember an occasion with an ear injury and blood?

2 A. No.

3 Q. And that he on several occasions sought your assistance  
4 to get medical treatment but you simply packed him back  
5 off back to bed.

6 A. No, that is not -- that never happened.

7 I was very, very vigilant. If any of the children  
8 had anything wrong with them at all. I was  
9 a house mother -- and the doctor would have verified  
10 this -- that I would take the children to be attended  
11 to. That is not true.

12 Q. If he had had an ear injury, you say you would have  
13 taken him for medical attention?

14 A. Of course I would have, yes.

15 Q. How did you deal with a problem he told us about, about  
16 chapped, cracked and bleeding lips?

17 A. I know nothing about that.

18 Q. You didn't know he had such a problem?

19 A. No.

20 Q. He said it was a recurring problem.

21 A. No. If it had been recurring, he would have been taken  
22 up to the hospital.

23 These children were not mine and I was very mindful  
24 of anything that was wrong with them. I took them to  
25 the hospital if I was concerned at all about anything.

1 MR PEOPLES: I think those are really all the questions that  
2 I have for this witness, but thank you very much for  
3 attending to assist the inquiry.

4 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for  
5 questions of this witness?

6 May, those are all the questions we have for you.  
7 Thank you for providing the written evidence that you've  
8 provided and for coming along today to answer the  
9 questions that we have for you this afternoon. I'm glad  
10 to say that I'm now able to let you go.

11 (The witness withdrew)

12 LADY SMITH: Could I once more remind everybody that the  
13 last witness did not waive her anonymity. She has  
14 a pseudonym, May, and she can not be identified outwith  
15 the hearing room, [REDACTED]

16 [REDACTED]  
17 [REDACTED]

18 [REDACTED] Again, if there are any doubts about that,  
19 please check with inquiry staff.

20 Mr Peoples.

21 MR PEOPLES: My Lady, I think that concludes the business  
22 for today.

23 LADY SMITH: It is 4.45.

24 MR PEOPLES: It has been a long day. Our hope is that  
25 we will have some further evidence tomorrow, although

1           there is, I think, evidence that will be taken by some  
2           form of video link tomorrow and there will also be,  
3           I think, one oral witness in addition and, hopefully,  
4           there may be some read-ins if we can fit them in.

5   LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. Until tomorrow morning.  
6   (4.45 pm)

7                         (The hearing adjourned until 10.00 am  
8                         on Friday 9 November 2018)

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I N D E X

JOHN PORTEOUS (sworn) .....1

    Questions from MR PEOPLES .....1

"JACK" (sworn) .....120

    Questions from MR PEOPLES .....121

"MAY" (sworn) .....152

    Questions from MR PEOPLES .....153

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