

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

[REDACTED] QLF

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is [REDACTED] QLF [REDACTED] My maiden name was [REDACTED] My date of birth is [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 1954. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. My mother's maiden name was [REDACTED]. I have never met her and don't know whether she is still alive. My father is deceased. His name was [REDACTED].
3. I have two full siblings, [REDACTED] LWQ [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] LWQ [REDACTED] date of birth is [REDACTED] 1951 and [REDACTED] is [REDACTED] 1953. I also have paternal and maternal half-siblings who I met after I came out of care.
4. According to my records, I went into Quarriers on [REDACTED] 1955. I was just over a year old so I have no recollection of my life before care. Apparently, [REDACTED] LWQ [REDACTED] and I lived with our paternal grandmother and auntie in Dundee, which is where I was born, and my father lived elsewhere in Dundee. The Quarriers admission paper shows my grandmother's name as [REDACTED]. The paper states that my father was to pay a contribution of fifteen shillings a week for each of his three children.
5. According to the records, we were taken into care because my grandmother and auntie were struggling to look after the three of us. I still don't understand why we went to Renfrewshire and not to a children's home in Dundee.

6. There's reference in my records to a children's welfare officer called Mr Judge, who was based at William Street, Dundee. He appears to have had some involvement with us early on, but I don't remember seeing him until we came out of Quarriers and had moved back to Dundee.

Quarriers Village, Bridge of Weir

7. Quarriers looked like a little village. I think the big gates at the entrance were on Bridge of Weir Road. I don't know if the gates were ever shut. We were never allowed up in that area. The office where all the admin was done was just as you came in the gates, and the houses where all the children lived were further in. There was also a babies' home, two toddlers' homes, a hospital called the Elise, a church and a school.
8. About five hundred children lived in Quarriers. I think there were fifty-three houses. They were big, beautiful, detached houses, all numbered and each had a name. The houses all looked roughly the same size, but I don't know if they were all the same inside as you were rarely allowed into a house when you called for a friend. There were about fifteen or sixteen children in each house, maybe slightly more in some. Cottage 20 is the one I remember living in. It was called 'Kintyre'.
9. One of the cottages was called 'the Colony'. That is where the epileptics and people with disabilities lived. They were stigmatised in those days. I think young adults lived there, maybe from about age thirteen and up. I never saw any wee tots. If someone had Down's Syndrome, they'd maybe be put in there. It was horrible that they had them segregated. We never had anybody in our cottages who had anything wrong with them, apart from my sister [REDACTED] But there was nobody with Down's Syndrome or anything like that in any of the cottages.
10. I presume I went into one of the baby homes when I first arrived. According to my records, the first cottage I was in was Cottage 4. I don't know when I was moved there, but there's a letter in the records dated 18 September 1959 which says I was

living there at that point. All three of us were in Cottage 4. The cottage parents were Mr and Mrs Greig. LWQ and I were then put into Cottage 20, which was a mixed cottage, and ██████ went into a boys' cottage, Cottage 23 I think. I don't know what age I was when I was moved from Cottage 4.

11. I don't have any memories of Cottage 4. I took my husband down to Quarriers in 2001 and Bill Dunbar, who became the house father at Cottage 4 and I believe has now bought the house, gave me a video of the cottage when it was run by the Greigs. It shows me, LWQ and ██████ with Mr Greig, and there's a picture of me, LWQ, ██████ and Mr and Mrs Greig ██████. There are other kids in it too. Apparently, the Greigs were ready to leave and wanted to take us with them. They wanted to adopt the three of us but they were too old. I don't know who told me this. I think that's why I was then put into Cottage 20.
12. I stayed in Cottage 20 until I left Quarriers. The cottage mother was ██████ QAQ. She was from ██████ That's where she used to go on her days off. She had a day off on a Thursday. ██████ I don't know what age ██████ QAQ was. I think people in those days looked much older than they were, so I can't put an age on her.
13. ██████ QAQ didn't have a husband, so we used to get cottage aunties in. There were always two adults in the house at any one time. When there were cottage mothers and fathers in the houses, they didn't tend to get aunties in unless the house parents went away for a holiday or something like that. We didn't always have the same cottage auntie, but nearer the end of my time in Quarriers we had the same one. Her name was ██████ QDA. I remember more about her than any of the others because she treated us so badly. When ██████ QAQ had her day off, another auntie would come in to help ██████ QDA. QDA looked older than ██████ QAQ, but I have a feeling she probably wasn't. QDA was ██████ and quite ██████.
14. We called the house mother "mummy", and we probably called the aunties, "auntie". I don't remember ██████ QAQ saying to us that we had to call her mummy but that's what we all did. All the children in the cottage got told that we were brothers

and sisters, so I didn't know that [LWQ] was my biological sister. I didn't know that [REDACTED] was my brother either. There were people in other cottages with the surname [REDACTED], so that wouldn't have been enough to make me think that [LWQ] and [REDACTED] were related to me.

Layout of Cottage 20

15. The front door was always open in Cottage 20. It probably had an inner door, but the main front door was always open. The cottage mother's parlour was to the left as you came in the front door. The stairs were also to the left. The kitchen was straight on. You went straight down and there was the playroom, the bathroom, with lots of sinks and toilets, and two big baths. Further down was another kind of play area and then there were doors which took you out to a gravel play area at the back.
16. My recollection is that there was a girls' dorm and two boys' dorms. They were never mixed. There was definitely a boys' dorm and a girls' dorm, and then there was another room that sat between the two. I don't think it was quite as big as the other two rooms and I'm sure it was just for boys. The cottage auntie used to sleep in a room up a little step from our dorm. The cottage mother's bedroom was also upstairs, to the right of the stairs as you came up. There was a toilet upstairs for us to use through the night. I'm assuming the cottage mother's bathroom was in her own room.
17. I think there were seven or eight girls in my room. There was a cot down beside me because I looked after a wee girl when I was older. There were probably seven single beds and a cot. The girls were mostly all there long-term. We got new people in, but they were usually boys. I can't remember us having cabinets or wardrobes in the room. We used to push the beds together and a cabinet would have got in the road, so I don't think we had any. I have no recollection of ever seeing a wardrobe. They would never have got all those beds in if they'd put wardrobes in the room.

Routine at Quarriers Village

First memories

18. My first memory at Quarriers is going out for the day with Nurse Waters, who worked in the baby and toddler homes. I don't know if she came and took me away for the day when I was living at Cottage 20, or whether this was before I moved there. We went on a train to Perth to see her mother, and I was sick all over the place. This was the only time I was sick while travelling and didn't get punished for it. I was a hellish traveller. I was sick every time I was in a car or bus. I remember her mum going into the attic in her house and bringing out a barrow full of toys for me to play with, and I also remember getting mince for dinner. It was a good day.
19. My second memory is standing in Cottage 20 with a wandering sailor plant that had been given to me by a couple, Mr and Mrs [REDACTED], from East Kilbride who used to take me out. That day was the last I saw of them. They had wanted to adopt me but they weren't allowed to.

Mornings and bedtime

20. The fire alarm went off to wake us up in the morning. I had a wee girl to look after. She was a wee cutie. In fact, I had two wee girls, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], to look after at different times. I adored them. I think I always needed something that was mine. Both of them were wee black girls. I adored black children. I had to make my own bed, fix the cot, and then get the wee girl ready. Our clothes were kept downstairs. You went down in the morning and got handed your clothes.
21. We had to read a passage from the bible before breakfast. Before we left for school, we lined up and got a spoonful of cod liver oil and malt. The older girls got calcium tablets. I had just started getting the tablets when I left Quarriers. We came home from school for lunch and went back again in the afternoon.

22. I think we used to go and wash our hands when we came back from school at the end of the day, then we had our meal, got bathed, cleaned our teeth and went to bed. We were in bed by six. I left Quarriers when I was twelve and a half and I was still going to bed at six o'clock. I think the fifteen-year-olds got to stay up a bit later occasionally, but the rest of us were always in bed early. You weren't allowed to read. You would sometimes chat, but you got into trouble for that, so you soon learned to just get into bed and go to sleep. I can sleep for Britain now. I could probably go to bed at six every night and sleep right through. I think that's because my body got used to it.

Food

23. We all sat at a big dining table for meals. I got porridge for breakfast. I didn't get a choice of anything else. It was put down to me when I went downstairs. The older ones maybe got a choice.
24. I think the house mother did the cooking. I'm assuming she did because I never saw people coming into the house to cook.
25. You got your Sunday dinner after church and your tea was always something cold like figs, prunes, dates or a malt or fruit loaf. They were putting food down to you. I can't say that they didn't feed you. The issue was that if you didn't like it, you didn't get anything else and you'd go to bed hungry, or you got it forced into your mouth until you ate it. I think the force-feeding happened when **QAQ** wasn't there. If you were sitting next to a laddie, you could try and give him what you didn't want to eat and he'd put it in his pocket and dispose of it later. The girls didn't have pockets in their clothing.

Washing/bathing

26. We got a bath every night. Two or three of us would get into the bath together. One of the baths was normal-sized and the other was a huge, Victorian-style one. The cottage mother and auntie bathed and dried us all. Bath time was like a conveyor

belt. The bath water didn't get changed, but we probably weren't that dirty because we weren't out playing all the time.

27. I got bathed by the cottage mother or auntie right up until I left at twelve and a half. There were a lot of us around the same age, so they had a lot of children to get ready for bed at the same time. I suppose it was easier for them to do it the way they did, rather than having everybody bathing themselves. But even as we got a bit older, we were still treated like little kids. We weren't taught independence or how to fend for ourselves. The only thing we did ourselves was clean our teeth. We had our own wee tins of toothpaste and toothbrushes. Everything else was done for us.

Clothing

28. We didn't have a school uniform. That was brought in after we left Quarriers. What you wore to school is what you wore all the time, except Sundays when you wore your Sunday best. The girls had to wear white gloves, plastic sandals and a straw hat in the summer.
29. The clothes didn't actually belong to you. They used to go up to the drapery to get washed and sometimes changed. The drapery is where we went to get fitted for our dresses. I remember there was this one skirt and jumper outfit that I really liked and I saw a wee girl from another cottage with it on. I was heartbroken because that outfit was my favourite. I hadn't outgrown it. It must have just gone up to the drapery to get washed and didn't come back to my cottage. I don't know if this was something that happened often.

School

30. The school was in the village. I thought it was miles away from the house, but I went back recently and saw that it wasn't far from my cottage. There were a lot of children my age in Quarriers. I would say there were about twenty-odd in my class. It was a full classroom.

31. I don't remember all of my teachers. The teachers didn't live in the village. I remember I got put in for a national handwriting competition in 1964 when I was ten. I can't remember the name of the woman teacher who put me forward for it. I remember I had to do a lot of practice writing before the competition. There were three prizes and two certificates in Scotland, and I got one of the certificates. I found out later that one of my best friends in Dundee got the other certificate the same year. I am still very particular about my handwriting. Even when I later went to college, we had to write everything by hand and if I made a mistake, I would scrap it and start it again. I would never use Tipp-ex.
32. I remember a really nice teacher at Quarriers called Mr Gilchrist. He took us out to meet his mum in Glasgow and took us to climb a hill which was like a mountain to us. I think it was called Tinto hill. I think he lived near it. When he was teaching us maths, he would let us go outside in groups in the summer and measure the road instead of being cooped up in a classroom.
33. I don't think I was the most academic at school, but I can't remember not enjoying it. I think school was a release from life in the cottage. You got to talk to children from other cottages. We were all in the same boat so nobody bullied you or treated you different. Everybody liked each other and nobody was nasty. The teachers knew we were in Quarriers and treated us all the same. I had a different experience of school when I went to live in Dundee.
34. I can't remember ever getting homework from school. I don't think that would have been easy to manage. I had four kids of my own so I know it would have been hard for the house parents to manage with all those kids. We wouldn't have got the chance to do it anyway, given we were in bed by six.

Religion

35. Religion was a big thing in Quarriers. I wasn't aware of what religion it was. There was no such thing as Catholics and Protestants. We were all the same. Everything in Quarriers was done under the banner of religion. The message was that God had

provided these homes for us and we had to be grateful that there were people willing to look after us.

36. You went to church three times a week, twice on a Sunday and once on a Wednesday. You didn't have a choice. You got lined up and you walked with your cottage down to the church. We all had our own place to sit in the church. I think we mostly wore our fancy clothes for church on a Sunday and sometimes wore them on a Wednesday if there was something special on in the church. I always remember at the back of the church, at the top, there was this thing with the words, "Suffer little children to come unto me" written on it.
37. We had a couple of different ministers. We had a really nice one called Mr Jones. I think his first name was Ernest. He had three children. Kirstyn was around my age, Katrina was younger, and he had a boy whose name I don't know. I think their house was up near the church. There were some other houses up there that I think were also for staff. There weren't many houses like that because most of the staff stayed in the cottages with the children.
38. The only thing you read in the house was the bible. That was the only book I ever had. I used to know the bible inside out. Our cottage used to win the bible quiz in Quarriers. We won it more than once. They were obviously good at teaching us to read the bible, but I never got the chance to read any other books.

Leisure time

39. I don't remember there being a lot of recreation time. We had a playroom downstairs and we all had a locker there. I don't know what we kept in it as we didn't have any stuff. There were toys in the playroom. These were shared by everyone. You didn't have any toys of your own. I've got a picture of [REDACTED] pushing me in a wheelbarrow and I've got a doll, but I never remember having a doll, teddy or anything like that. I'm not saying I never did, but I have no recollection of ever having something to cuddle.

40. The video that Bill Dunbar gave me was obviously done for PR. I think Sally Magnusson was involved in the making of it. I am in the video with my sister and brother [REDACTED] It also shows other kids as if they are having the best time of their lives. When I saw it, I wondered when this actually happened, as it's not how I remember it. There are kids on bikes looking like they are having an amazing time. I never learnt to go a bike. I never even saw a bike in there.
41. We got some time to play on Saturdays. We mainly played with the people in our cottage. They were our family. [REDACTED] QDA used to put us out the front. We were rarely out the back. We would play elastics, or play with a ball against the wall or chases. The boys maybe got a ball to kick about, but I don't actually remember that.
42. We'd sometimes get put out to play in horrible weather and then be kept in when it was nice. I remember being out in the snow. I hated the cold and was always freezing. I would stand there and greet, instead of running about playing and warming myself up. It didn't matter to anybody that I didn't like being out in the cold. You were put out and that was it. The house mother would put coats and gloves on us, but [REDACTED] QDA would put us out in the rain with no jackets and in our bare feet sometimes.
43. We had to do a five-mile walk on a Sunday and we got a wee puff candy bar after it. We walked through farms and I used to like to see the animals. I've always loved animals.
44. There was a play park at the back of the church with a roundabout, swings and a chute. It wasn't huge. There was loads of land at the back of the church. There was also a river and that's where they had sports days. They built a recreation hall, which is now a café, and I think the older ones maybe got to go there. I don't think I was ever old enough to go because I can't remember ever being there.
45. We got pocket money, some of which we spent on sweets and the rest we had to save. To this day I am a sweetie lover. I think if you deprive kids of sweets when they

are young, they go mad for them when they're older. QNB [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] We would go [REDACTED] and get a bag of sweets once a week. I don't know what we saved the other money for as we never got it when we left Quarriers. I think we got one shilling and six pence. We spent the six and gave back the shilling to the house mother.

Chores

46. We didn't have chores to do but you always had a younger child to look after. There was a wee shed at the side of the house and I used to see boys in there cleaning shoes. I had an imaginary horse and I used to put him into the shed to sleep and that's when I would see the boys doing the shoes. I don't think I ever had to clean them.
47. I don't know who did the cleaning in the cottage. I never saw any cleaners coming in, but then we were at school so maybe they did.

Holidays/trips

48. A company called Babcock and Wilcox used to put on buses for us all to go on days out to Troon and Girvan. They'd get us streamers and balloons. They paid for it all. We also went to Butlin's in Ayr, courtesy of some other company.
49. A man called Mr Hodge, who was a millionaire, used to let Quarriers take us on holiday to two cottages that he owned in Turnberry. We used to go for a week at a time. Only specific cottages got to go. Not everyone in my cottage came, maybe only a handful of us went. I don't know how they selected who was allowed to go. The younger ones probably stayed at home.
50. The house mother went with us to look after us in Turnberry. We used to go to Maidens beach. There was a guy called Andre who worked for Mr Hodge and he used to take us in his car up and down an unused runway. It was good fun. We all loved Andre.

Birthdays and Christmas

51. Christmas wasn't a big celebration. I still don't go crazy for it. You got toys put into a pillowcase on your chair in the dining room, but you never saw them again. I never had any toy that I could call mine. None of us did. We weren't brought up that way. I can't remember ever having a Christmas dinner, but maybe we did.
52. You got a gift from the church at Christmas. I remember there would be two huge trees in the church at Christmas and all the kids would be excited because they were getting a gift. In October every year, you got asked what you would like for Christmas. I asked for a New English bible as I was fed up having to share the dirty, tatty ones. We had to read the bible so it was really the only thing I knew about to ask for. I got a green leather hard back bible. This was the only thing I ever got that was personal to me, but I never had it for long as it also vanished.
53. My sister LWQ got a [REDACTED] the same year I got the bible, and I wanted that [REDACTED] so much. [REDACTED] her birthday was celebrated more. I hated her for that. I didn't know she was my sister at the time. I don't know if LWQ saw the [REDACTED] again [REDACTED] but I didn't. It seemed to vanish too.
54. You got a bag with knitting pins and wool on your birthday. There was a knitting circle from Kilmacolm that used to come when it was a girl's birthday. They were all old women, and they would come and have afternoon tea. That was how you celebrated your birthday. You didn't have parties. I can't remember getting a card or cake. I can't remember celebrating my birthday at all.
55. The knitting circle used to come at Christmas too, and I had to put on this stupid green party dress and dance around the Christmas tree singing 'O Christmas Tree'. There was always carol singing at Christmas. I had to do that every year to impress them. I hated it.

Visits/Inspections

56. My father came to visit us once. That's the only time I ever remember seeing him. We weren't told he was coming. LWQ and I were just told by QAQ to keep on our Sunday best because we were getting a visitor. According to our records, he had let us down before so maybe that's why they never told us. got brought to our cottage for the visit. That was when I found out LWQ and were my sister and brother. I wasn't told this. I realised it when it was just the three of us that he came to visit.
57. We were put in QAQ parlour to meet him. Nobody else was there. I hated him the minute I saw him. I had long hair and he said that he loved girls with long hair, so I got it cut after that. I don't know why I hated him, probably because he had put us in there and obviously didn't care about us. I maybe also assumed that he was the one that had stopped me from being adopted. I didn't speak to him during the visit. I think, having now read my records, that I was about ten and a half or eleven when he visited. I don't think it was that long before they started harassing him to take us out of Quarriers.
58. The social worker, Mr Judge, mentioned in my records never came to visit us. I only remember seeing him after I left Quarriers. I don't remember any official person coming to visit the cottage the whole time I was in Quarriers. I don't remember any inspections taking place. Nobody from the Quarriers office came to our cottage. If they did come to meet with the house mother, they must have done so when we weren't around. Nobody from outside the cottage ever spoke to me or asked me how I was doing. It was like the house mother and aunties were in charge of the house and they could do whatever they wanted. There was no control over what was done within each house.
59. We sometimes had to show people round Quarriers. I don't know how often this happened. It was like an open day. Couples, who were maybe looking to adopt kids or take them out on holiday, would come in and a child would show a group round the cottage and take them up to the church if they wanted to see it. They gave you

money as a thank you. I'm not sure if we were allowed to keep the money or whether I was just devious and did so. I don't remember anybody taking it off me.

60. The couple who gave me the wandering sailor plant used to take me out. Their names were Mr and Mrs [REDACTED]. I don't know how often I went out with them, but I do remember going to East Kilbride where they lived. They had two sons, the youngest was [REDACTED] but was called [REDACTED] and they wanted to adopt a wee girl. All of a sudden, they stopped taking me out because they weren't allowed to adopt me. I don't know why they didn't get to adopt me because I found out when I got my records that my father had wanted us to be adopted from the start.
61. [REDACTED] LWQ used to go out to a Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] Foxbar, Paisley. I always remember the address. According to my notes, Quarriers coerced them to take me and [REDACTED] out too. They never liked me or [REDACTED] well certainly not me anyway. I think they only wanted [REDACTED] LWQ. They had a son of their own and I think they only wanted one other child. This was after I stopped going out with the [REDACTED]. I think by this point, Quarriers were trying to get rid of the three of us.
62. I think Quarriers realised that I loved animals, so they started to send me to the [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] Farm in [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] used to go and then when she stopped, I got sent. I don't know if she got too old to go. I used to love going there. They were a lovely couple. I went during the summer holidays for two or three weeks at a time. I think I went at Easter too because I remember going upstairs on Easter Sunday to wake an elderly neighbour, Miss [REDACTED], who was staying with the [REDACTED] and she had died.
63. I think sending us to places like the [REDACTED] was something that was encouraged by Quarriers so that we got to experience different places.

Healthcare

64. The Elise Hospital was up a hill, to the left of the entrance gates. It was part of the village but was outside the main part where all the cottages were. There were nurses and a dentist called Mr White in the hospital.
65. I remember going there to get my tonsils out and for treatment when I was bitten on the leg by a border collie from a farm. I also went every year for what was called your "March pass". You got your ears, throat and hair checked, and they noted your height and weight. I don't know if that was done for me every year in March [REDACTED] [REDACTED] or whether the whole cottage got it done at the same time.

Running Away

66. One day [REDACTED] QDA was looking after our house and my sister [REDACTED] LWQ and a few others decided to run away. They wouldn't let me go because I was too young. I had to stay there and be put out in the rain while [REDACTED] QDA looked for them. She couldn't find them and the police brought them back. I think the big ones ran away more than once. I never ran away because I had nobody to go with.

Peers

67. I think everybody in our cottage got treated the same. I never saw anybody getting treated better than anyone else. I think the age range of the children in our cottage was between three and fifteen. I remember [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I don't know why these families were kept together and my brother [REDACTED] was separated from us. Quarriers knew we had the same mother and father. To me, [REDACTED] was always just another boy in Quarriers. I hardly ever saw him.

68. I remember seeing one of the wee black girls I eventually looked after, I can't remember which one, playing on a swing in the baby home before she moved into my cottage. I asked for her to get put into my cottage. They said no at first. Then, after my five-mile walk one Sunday when I got back to the cottage, the wee girl was sitting there. I had to look after her but that was fine with me. She was about two or three. I think she was still in nappies but only for a wee while. She was wonderful. The five-mile walk that day was worth it.
69. The school was where you made friends from other cottages. You didn't get a chance to meet up in church, as each cottage would walk in a line and then sit in their own bit in the church. When you left church you went home. You didn't spend a lot of time with your friends. I think as you got older, there was a bit more freedom because I remember meeting up with some of my friends. But you didn't get to just go out and about as you wanted. It was a big place, but you didn't get to wander and you couldn't go out of the grounds.
70. You were sometimes allowed to invite a friend over for tea. That didn't happen often. The house mother had to be in a good mood to allow that, and your friend's cottage mother had to be good too to allow them to come. My best friend, [REDACTED], lived in Cottage 15. She had a sister called [REDACTED]. Her house mother was Miss [REDACTED] QJD. I used to go and knock on her door to see if she was coming out, and Miss [REDACTED] QJD would slam the door in my face. So, even if you were lucky enough to be allowed out to play, your friends didn't always get out to play with you. It's not that they didn't encourage friendships, you just didn't get much time together.
71. I had a boyfriend called [REDACTED]. He wasn't really a boyfriend. He was just a wee friend. [REDACTED] lived in Cottage 4 with Bill Dunbar and his wife.
72. I remember one of my friends, [REDACTED], who lived in Cottage 7, was there one day and the next she was gone. I was told she'd been adopted. I never heard anything from her after that. She couldn't have known about it because she would have told us. I was heartbroken. [REDACTED] was my age and was one of my closest friends. She's the only one of my friends that vanished.

73. Another girl, [REDACTED], who I think might also have been in Cottage 7, took an epileptic fit and died in her bed. That's what we got told. They must not have known she was epileptic because she didn't live in the colony. She was around the same age as [LWQ]. I think I saw her funeral in the graveyard. I think this was when the minister Mr Jones was at Quarriers, but I didn't see him that day. I just remember seeing a coffin, some flowers and some people. I assumed the funeral was for this girl because she was the only one who had died.
74. There doesn't appear to be any record of [REDACTED]'s death. My sister [LWQ] and [REDACTED] have been having meetings with Quarriers about children's gravestones having been removed from the graveyard. There used to be gravestones and two plaques with the names of the children that died at Quarriers. Apparently, when the church got converted into flats, people didn't like looking down and seeing gravestones so they were taken away. I let [REDACTED] see the video I was given by Bill Dunbar in case they needed proof that the gravestones had been there. I think there's talk now about not replacing the headstones but putting plaques up instead. [REDACTED] and [LWQ] are involved in this. It was them who told me there is no record of [REDACTED]'s death. I only know what they've told me.
75. I wasn't aware of this at the time, but there were some cottages that were worse than the one I was in. I heard years ago that the house father of one of my pals got the jail for sexually abusing her. Her name was [REDACTED]. The house father's name was McBrearty. I think his first name was Samuel. I was absolutely devastated when I found out about it. I knew nothing about it at the time. I didn't know what sexual abuse was when I was that age.

Abuse at Quarriers Village

76. A lot of things happened when the cottage mother was on her days off or when she went into hospital with a [REDACTED] and was at home recovering. [REDACTED] QDA was looking after us during those times. There would have been another cottage

auntie in the house along with QDA because she wouldn't have been able to run it on her own. I don't remember any of the other aunties' names.

77. I was often force-fed by QDA. We were not allowed to leave anything. It was a case of God put this food on the table, so you must eat it whether you like it or not. On one occasion, I was given a pork chop and I didn't eat the fat on it. It was a big, thick chop. I then got it again for another three meals the next day. By dinner time, QDA was pushing it into my mouth until I swallowed it. After that, every time I saw fat, I used to pick it off people's plates and eat it. I was an adult before I realised that I didn't have to do that.
78. I was force-fed black pudding as well. I hate the sight of it now. My husband can't even bring it into the house. I was forced to eat it while I was being sick, and the sick got put back into my mouth as well. This was QDA again and another cottage auntie. I'm assuming it was another cottage auntie, as there was someone holding my arms to stop me taking it out of my mouth. It must have been an auntie, as I wouldn't believe one of the other girls would do that.
79. The force-feeding always seemed to happen when QAQ was away. You still had to eat the food if she was there, but I can't remember her ever holding me and force-feeding me. Maybe I just don't want to believe it. It happened to me on several occasions so maybe she was involved and I just don't remember it.
80. The gym teacher at school, Mr QDB, had me walking across an upturned bench in the gym hall one day. I remember I had a t-shirt on and red, ribbed tights. He was stroking the top of the inside of my leg as I was walking across. That caused me to wobble and fall off the bench, and I burst my face and broke a tooth. I was taken immediately to the Elise hospital to get cleaned up and was seen by the dentist Mr White. My tooth had broken diagonally and couldn't be saved. Mr White pulled it out without giving me an injection. It was maybe slack. I was in a class equivalent to P7 and had my big teeth at the time.

81. The incident in the gym happened just before my cottage mother went into hospital for a [REDACTED]. When she was in hospital, [REDACTED] QDA [REDACTED] was looking after us and the space where my tooth had been closed over, so I only had one front tooth. When the cottage mother came out of hospital, I had to get something put in my mouth to open up the space so that a denture could be put in. This affected my teeth for the rest of my life because I didn't get the denture changed as I grew. I never got a different denture the rest of the time I was in Quarriers, and then when I went to live with my father he never bothered about it, so it wore away the rest of my teeth and I ended up having to get all my teeth out at the back.
82. The word I would use to describe [REDACTED] QDA [REDACTED] is "evil". I don't know why she did the job because she didn't seem to like any of us. She had no feelings at all for anybody. She never had a nice thing to say to us and was always bringing kids down. She didn't want us in the house and would put us all out in our bare feet at times. She once told us we could go swimming but we were not to get wet. Nobody would go in the water so she started screaming at everybody to get in, obviously so she'd then have a reason to punish us. I would hate to think that she was still working with children or having any contact with them.
83. We used to get smacked by both [REDACTED] QAQ [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] QDA [REDACTED]. You would be smacked on the bottom or on the legs. It depended on how they grabbed you. Sometimes, they would take your pants down and smack you across the bum. You would get smacked for things you wouldn't expect children to be smacked for.
84. I was always smacked by [REDACTED] QAQ [REDACTED] and put to bed on my first day on holiday at Turnberry because I was always sick on the bus going. That's what happened on my first day every time we went. They gave us a yellow tablet to stop us being sick, but I think that made me sick. It was disgusting and we didn't get a drink to help swallow it.
85. I had a lovely watch when I was at Maidens beach one time on holiday in Turnberry. I put it on a rug when I went into the water. Someone shook the rug and the watch

got lost. I got smacked by [redacted] for losing it, even although I had been careful with it and had put it on the rug.

86. I have shown the Inquiry team [redacted] a picture [redacted] of me, [redacted] LWQ [redacted] and [redacted] and [redacted]. The church is in the background. We all have our Sunday best on for going to church. [redacted] and [redacted] LWQ [redacted] are standing with their hands in front of them, but mine are behind my back. I got smacked by [redacted] QAQ [redacted] and put to bed after that picture was taken for not standing like a lady. I found [redacted] in my father's house in Dundee. I didn't think he should have it, so I took it. Bill Dunbar then gave me [redacted] when I went down to Quarriers in 2001.
87. We got punished every Thursday night when [redacted] QAQ [redacted] came back from [redacted] and [redacted] QDA [redacted] had been looking after us during the day. [redacted] QAQ [redacted] would ring the fire alarm through the night and we all had to get up and go into her room. She would line us up and put us over her knee and smack our bare bums, or hit us on the hands with a school belt because [redacted] QDA [redacted] had told her we'd been naughty. We'd then get put back to bed, sometimes wondering why we had been punished because [redacted] QAQ [redacted] hadn't asked us any questions about who had done what. She had just taken [redacted] QDA [redacted]'s word for it.
88. A girl called [redacted] used to wet the bed. She was quite a big girl and she had health problems. I heard she has since died. She got smacked by the house mother and auntie every time she wet the bed. I don't think she could help it because she got smacked and that didn't stop her doing it. They put her wet pants on her head one time and she had to walk about like that. I can't remember who did that to her. She actually started to hide her wet pants behind the heaters. There was no medication or anything given to try and help her.
89. As well as physical abuse, we were also deprived of things. We never got hugs or a teddy to cuddle, and we never got read stories. They did the basics for you and that was it. You were fed, watered and clothes were put on your back, but that was the end of the attention you got. It was like they didn't want to look after you. Nothing

was done with affection. It was always rough treatment. You'd get this thick white stuff for nits slapped on your head, and the girls would get nylon tied in their hair at night to make ringlets for special occasions. When you're a child, you just take it as it comes. You don't know any different. It's only when you grow up and become a parent yourself that you realise you weren't looked after the way you would expect children to be looked after. I certainly wouldn't have wanted [redacted] looking after my kids. But I don't want to paint it all black. It must have been hard for them looking after a big load of kids. And we were all treated the same way by [redacted] [redacted]. It's not like she had any favourites.

Leaving Quarriers Village

90. My records show that I left Quarriers on [redacted] 1966. [redacted] and I were on holiday in Turnberry when we left. We had been told the day before that we were leaving. That's the first we knew we were going. Bill Dunbar came in a car to pick us up. He had brought [redacted] in the car along with another family, the [redacted], who were going to Perth. We got put in the car and were taken to Dundee.
91. I didn't get to say cheerio to my friends or take my wee collection of plastic animal figures that I had in my desk at school. It had taken me ages to collect them and I never saw them again. That was gut-wrenching for me. I have no recollection of taking anything away with us from Quarriers. If we were given clothes to take with us, my father probably flogged them.
92. We were dropped off by Bill Dunbar at my father's house at [redacted], Dundee. I think Quarriers failed in their care of us while we were there, but they failed big time when they put us out. We were at such vulnerable ages.

Reporting of abuse at Quarriers

93. I told the headmaster what the gym teacher had done to me. I can't remember the headmaster's name. The gym hall was near to the headmaster's room. I was probably screaming when I fell off the bench, especially if I had seen blood, and the headmaster must have heard the commotion and came through. He asked me what happened, and I told him exactly what the gym teacher had done. I never told anybody else and nobody ever mentioned it to me. I never saw that teacher in the school again.
94. I had heard the gym teacher used to put keys down boys' shorts and girls' blouses, but he had never done anything to me before. He had been the gym teacher in the school for a while. I don't know if there had been complaints before and mine was the final complaint. All I know is that he never returned to the school after what he did to me.
95. Before I decided to speak to the Inquiry, somebody said to me that what he did to me was sexual abuse. I hated the fact he'd done it and that I'd burst my face and broke my tooth, but I had never thought of it like that. I certainly didn't know those words as a child. It was only when I was asked how I would feel if someone did this to my granddaughter that I realised it was abuse. I have never reported it to anyone else.

Life after being in Quarriers

96. I was twelve and a half when I went to live in Dundee. My father and his new wife, [REDACTED], and their three kids, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], all lived in the house. Another child, [REDACTED] was born while we were there. It was plain from the minute we walked into the house that they didn't want us there. My father didn't care about any of us.
97. We weren't prepared for life outside Quarriers. I missed my friends and I found it hard not getting to go and stay with the [REDACTED] again. My father's house was in a

rough area in Dundee. I had never heard a swear word until I came to Dundee. I swear like a trooper now. My father smoked. I had never seen anybody smoke before. The three of us ended up with dysentery because the house was so filthy. We went from a clean environment in the country to complete squalor.

98. My father told me that he didn't like me because I looked like my mother and had [REDACTED] like her. I became the babysitter and the cleaner. I was like Cinderella. I had to do everything for him and his wife. They were always in the pub and were the laziest, most horrible people ever put on this earth. I had to wash my school uniform and iron it dry, as I wasn't allowed to hang my clothes up beside theirs. [REDACTED] LWQ had to get a job so she could feed me and [REDACTED]. She would come in from work and cook for us. We weren't allowed to eat beside them. I think the only reason my father agreed to take us was because [REDACTED] LWQ was old enough to work, [REDACTED] was nearly at that age, and I was at an age where I could babysit and be a slave for them.
99. We actually tried to run away from Dundee to go back to Quarriers. At least we had friends there and all the kids got treated the same, whereas at my father's house it was only me, [REDACTED] LWQ and [REDACTED] that were treated badly. The other kids got everything. They got new clothes and had blankets on their beds while we had to put coats on ours.
100. They used to keep me off school and make me go to pick berries or potatoes and take all the money off me. I was the only child ever at the potato-picking. The school never did anything about me being absent. My father used to send me, in his place, to [REDACTED] to clean a place called the [REDACTED]. I had to walk back and go and get groceries "on tick" on the way back.
101. My father threw me out and I lived on the streets for a while. I slept up closes and stole rolls and milk from doorsteps. A neighbour's wee dog used to come and find me and sleep with me in the closes. I used to sneak into the house during the day when they weren't around. I think I would have preferred to have been in Quarriers for the rest of my life. At least I would have had a roof over my head.

102. LWQ, [REDACTED] and I shoplifted pants and socks, and some sweets, from Woolworths about three or four months after we arrived in Dundee. That's when the welfare worker Mr Judge became involved. There was another worker called Mr Drury. I called them "Judge and Jury". We were taken to the police station and we were freaking out. We thought we'd get battered by the auld man and Mr Judge warned him not to touch us. We must have been telling Mr Judge that we were going to get battered. My father didn't hit us that time, but he did on several other occasions. He used to punch and kick me. I don't remember the welfare department having any other involvement with us. I only know Mr Judge was from the welfare department because that's what it says in my records. Mr Drury is not mentioned in the records.
103. According to my records, people from Quarriers visited us in Dundee after we left there, but I have no recollection of seeing anybody. The records also say that they visited my father while we were in Quarriers.

School

104. I couldn't wait to get back to school when I came to Dundee, but the school, Kirkton High, turned out to be very different to Quarriers. It was a rough school in a rough area. On my first day, the teacher introduced me by telling the class that I was their new classmate and that I had come from a home. I got bullied from day one. It wasn't like Quarriers where we were all in the same boat, I was different from the other kids there. They had mums and dads and I was going to school like a "mink". I never let anybody come to my house because I had nothing and didn't want anybody to see how I was living. One of the tough nut girls took me under her wing and I ended up following her about like a wee puppy dog.
105. It was at school that I learnt about Catholics and Protestants. I was at a Protestant school and the Catholics would come down to fight us. I had never been told in Quarriers about these two religions and how important the rivalry between the two was in some areas.

106. The teachers used to give you comics and magazines and then walk out the class. I got taught diddly-squat at school, although it was better there than it was in the house. I had to leave school at fifteen to go out to work. I wanted to stay on and become a vet.

Life after full-time education

107. I got a job in a shop and was there for about a year. I wasn't well for a while and didn't work, and then I got a job in a vets. I loved it there.

108. I moved out of my father's and stayed with [LWQ] and her husband for a wee while but that didn't work out. I then went to stay in a Salvation Army home. I was only there for about a week when I was about sixteen or seventeen. The vet I worked for found out that I was homeless and she got me into a Church of Scotland hostel for young ladies. They were another lot that wanted me to go to church on a Sunday, but I got off with it because I had to work at the vets. You could only live in the hostel until age twenty-one. I stayed there until I met my husband [REDACTED] when I was twenty.

109. I remember [REDACTED] was the first person to ever ask me what I wanted to eat. It was weird to be asked that question. I had been used to all my meals being put down to me at particular times in Quarriers, the Salvation Army home and the hostel. I was institutionalised.

110. I moved in with [REDACTED]. I never loved him. He was the first person that was nice to me, and I knew I didn't have long to go in the hostel. He kept asking me to marry him and I did as I wanted to have kids within marriage, because I had been taught in Quarriers that that was the right thing to do. I had three sons with [REDACTED].

111. After we were married, [REDACTED] decided that he would do what my dad had always done and started smacking me about. It took me a lot of years to get the courage to get rid of him.

112. I was then on my own for a while with my kids. I didn't work because there wasn't the same childcare facilities then, so I lived on benefits. I met my current husband [REDACTED] in 1984. He and I split up before my daughter was born and then got back together when my daughter was nine.
113. I went to college to do an HND in computing when I was thirty-eight. My life started to improve from there. I also learnt to drive at that time. I got a job in [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and started to look after myself financially.

Impact

114. I think having been brought up in care has affected my relationships with my children. I love my kids as much as I could love anybody, but I've not got a good relationship with my daughter. She has told me that I am the worst mum ever. I thought I had been as good a mum as I could be.
115. I don't think I'm emotionally good as a person. I am not caring. I have been told that by a lot of people. People think I am hard and emotionless. I agree that I am not the most sympathetic or caring person in the world. I have no time for sitting and listening to friends' woes because I think you have to just get on with it. That's what I had to do. That's been my way of surviving. I have been told that I am not a good friend.
116. I am not very tactile. When people come to cuddle me, I don't like it. I feel like it's my space and I want people to stay away from it. An old boss once hugged me and then apologised because she could see how uncomfortable I was with it.
117. I think I would have been different if we had been given more love and had learnt how to handle life in the outside world. We lived with the fear of God. We weren't taught how to communicate properly with people or be emotionally connected to each other. If you don't understand your own emotions, you can't connect properly with somebody else.

118. I don't trust enough people to open up to people. I don't want folk to know about my life. I don't want them thinking, "Poor QLF". People know I was brought up in care, and that's as much as they get from me. I don't want sympathy. That was my life and I don't want other folk living it. My husband doesn't even know everything about my childhood. I put it all away and that's where it stayed for many moons until now. I never reported the abuse at Quarriers or by my father to anyone, other than that one incident in the gym.
119. I don't want sympathy and I don't want to be a statistic of a care home. I vowed I would never take drugs or be a drinker because that would be letting Quarriers and my father win. I remember when I was younger and being treated like that in Quarriers and then in Dundee, I used to lie and think, "Is this it? Is this what my life is? Have I just been put here to get beat up, have food rammed down my throat and be thrown out into the street?". I have had to be strong to survive and that has made me hard.
120. I don't think I learnt anything in Quarriers. You never really got the freedom to play, learn and grow. I'm not thick but I don't think I came out of there with any knowledge. I certainly had no survival skills, which I had to learn quick-smart in Dundee or I would have been dead. It's only when you're older that you realise what you missed out on. I didn't get books to read. I never even knew about books. I know a lot about the bible, and people think it's great that I can answer a lot of the religious questions in quizzes, but I think I should also know the answers to half the other questions and I don't.
121. I am now a very fussy eater. I eat what I want to eat when I want to eat it, and nobody will ever tell me what I should eat. I won't even taste anything if I don't fancy it. People will say to me that I need to try something before refusing it, but I won't do it. I only eat plain food. I actually don't eat much, because I don't like enough to eat. This all stems from getting forced to eat things when I was a child.

122. I am petrified of the dentist. I could never take my kids in. I used to send them in on their own because I knew I would pass out if I went in.
123. Religion was rammed down your throat in Quarriers, so much so that I now hate going into a church. I think they are beautiful buildings and I like the stained glass windows, but I hate churches. I think of them as cold, evil places because of how I was brought up in Quarriers. Everything was done under the banner of religion and we were told ^{me} we were God's children, but we weren't shown love or affection and we weren't treated the way kids should be. My husband suggested getting my kids christened when they were born and I told him that there was no way I would take them into a church.
124. It's unfortunate that LWQ and I never got the chance to grow up as proper sisters. Our relationship has got stronger over the past four years or so, but before that LWQ lived her life and I lived mine. I didn't grow up with [REDACTED] either. I don't understand why he wasn't in Cottage 20 with us when other families were kept together.
125. I hadn't seen [REDACTED] for nine years and saw him briefly when I was down in Blackpool for the weekend a few weeks ago. He was in a car that had stopped to allow us to cross the road. I heard him shout my name, but we didn't get a chance to talk properly because he had to drive on. He said he's living in Blackpool now and that he would be in touch, but he hasn't.
126. [REDACTED] had a tough life. He should have never been brought out of Quarriers. It was a bad age for him. He was fourteen and a half. He ended up in borstal and prison and I don't think that would have happened if he had been left in Quarriers. He got beat up by my father and was never wanted. I don't know how he got on in Quarriers because I hardly saw him. He was just another guy.

Treatment and Support

127. I got in touch with Future Pathways in December last year. They have now organised counselling for me with a woman called [REDACTED] at Insight, 10 Constitution Road, Dundee. I've had four sessions so far.
128. I've been told that Future Pathways have organised twelve sessions for me. I don't know if I am going to take them. I don't know if I want to keep talking about my childhood. I think I just want to put it all away again. I have started to think back to my time in care too much. I don't want to be thinking about it. I feel sick. I felt physically sick this morning before meeting with the Inquiry team. I'm not sleeping properly. I'm wakening up through the night, and that's not something I tend to do. I usually go to bed and sleep right through. I am having to take afternoon naps now because I'm shattered.
129. I am worried that if I keep talking about it, that will make me worse. I haven't told [REDACTED] this. I have told her that I'm hoping I can put it all away again. My fear is that by talking about it, it will carry on being a jumble in my head and it won't go away. I was able to put it all away before, but I'm worried I won't be able to sort it all out in my head and file it away again.
130. I'm actually feeling quite angry now. I'm angry with Quarriers and my father. I hated my father from the moment I met him, but maybe I wouldn't have done if Quarriers had spoken to us about him. They were visiting him while we were in there and putting pressure on him to take us, so they should have been talking to us about him and preparing us for going to live with him.

Records

131. I got a set of records from Quarriers about ten years ago. There were thousands of pieces of papers with black lines all over them. I know they need to black out stuff that mentions other people, but there were only a few things that were actually

legible. One was a letter from my mother asking Quarriers to take her three other kids in, and there was a response telling her that they already had three of her children and wouldn't take the others. There was also something that said I wasn't looking forward to leaving Quarriers and that I didn't settle when I left. I was so angry that there was nothing about me or my life in the records. I got so enraged that that is what my life amounted to and I shredded the lot.

132. I decided to ask for my records again and I received them in March or April this year. It took me ages to get them. I wanted my sister to pick them up because I couldn't get down to Renfrewshire. I spoke to them and emailed everything they asked for, but I then had to get my boss to sign a passport picture of me to prove it was me. I had to jump through hoops to get a bundle of papers that don't actually say much about me.
133. The second set is nothing like the first set. The first bundle was about three times bigger, even although there was nothing in them. The letter from my mother sent with the first set was an original, as was Quarriers' reply to her. Whether they kept copies I don't know, but I never got any with the second set. The rest of the papers in the first set were photocopies.
134. The second set hasn't got all the black lines, but it's just a load of nonsense in them. The admission paper is there, which wasn't in the first set. There's also mention of me being bitten by a dog and that I had to see an orthodontist, although it doesn't say why. It seems to me that everything has been trivialised.
135. The records are made up mostly of letters sent to my father asking him to visit us, putting pressure on him to take us, and trying to help him to get a bigger house so he had room for us. They put a lot of pressure on him to take us out, which I didn't know until I got the records. The records also show that Bill Dunbar used to visit my father in Dundee before we were sent to live with him. There's a letter dated 1964 referring to Mr Dunbar's visit.

136. I am very angry about Quarriers putting pressure on my father to take us to live with him. He didn't want us from the start and had signed papers for us to be adopted. I don't know why they didn't arrange for us to be adopted. There were opportunities to do so. The records show that my father owed Quarriers £935 and 4 shillings. There's a Quarriers report dated 6 December 1965 which says that my father was in prison for, "failing to maintain his three children in our care whilst still drawing family allowance". I think they put pressure on him to take us because he owed them money. The value of our lives appears to be the sum owed. They even wrote to the Corporation to help him get a bigger house.
137. I am also angry that Quarriers appear to have stayed involved after we left but did nothing about our situation. The records show that they seem to have been worried about me, but they were not worried enough to do anything about it. There's mention of someone coming out and apparently speaking to me, and I told them I had been thrown out of the house and had been living on the streets for a while. I don't remember telling anybody that. The records also say that they were trying to find me a live-in place so I could work with animals, but that never happened.
138. My love of animals appears to be the only thing in the records that's correct. They say that I liked reading. I hate reading. There's also a note, from when they supposedly came to Dundee to visit us, that talks about me having a job and getting to keep my wages, except for the "keep" money I handed in. That's a load of rubbish. My father took all my wages. They also say that I got money when I was in Dundee to spend on a dog, which I didn't. I don't know how long Quarriers remained involved but it must have been a while as I didn't leave school and start working until I was fifteen.
139. I have heard that there's boxes of records sitting in Quarriers. I wonder if I would get another different set if I were to ask for them again. I think what gets sent to you probably depends on who deals with your request.
140. My mother's three sons from a different relationship traced me and my sister some years ago. They got their notes from the social work department, and I decided I

would speak to them too to see whether they had any notes on me. They said they had nothing. They also said that there was no way we would have been taken from Dundee and sent to live in Renfrewshire. They didn't believe that we were brought up in Quarriers.

Other information

141. There needs to be more done to make sure people foster or adopt children for the right reasons. I know people who fostered kids for the money. The money they get is so good that they don't have to work. Quarriers was all about making money. It's got to stop being about the money and start being just about the child. That would be one way of helping to make sure that a child is placed with the right people. I hope this is something that comes out of the Inquiry, that people take children into their home because they want to love and care for them like they're part of their own family and not for big money. I know that people would need some financial help, but they should just get the same as folk get for their own children.
142. I think there needs to be a better vetting process for people fostering or working with children. More money needs to be put into the vetting process to work out what it is that motivates people to work with or foster children. You always hear it said that lessons have been learnt after something happens to a child, but my story is sixty-four years old and the same thing is still happening to children. There needs to come a point where the lessons are actually learnt.
143. Nobody ever asked us our version of events in Quarriers. They always believed the adults. I think that the children in care now should be encouraged to speak up and nobody should just assume that the adults are always right.
144. I think the record-keeping for children in care needs to be better. As well as there being very little information in the records about my life in Quarriers, there are not a lot of pictures of us as children. I have none of me as an actual baby. There are a couple of me, LWQ and [REDACTED] at the beach with the Greigs. They probably didn't

take a lot of photographs back when I was a child, but it would be nice to have them and I hope it's something that's done for children now.

145. I hope that the people who abused children and are still alive get their comeuppance. It's upsetting that it's taken until now for this to come out in the open and the ones that have died never had to face up to what they did.

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

Signed...  QLF

Dated... 10 September 2018