

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

Marion SMILLIE

Support person present: No

1. My name is Marion Jane Smillie. My maiden name was Aitken. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 56. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.
2. The reason that I approached the Inquiry was because my auntie and uncle Tangeman were house parents in cottage 23 in Quarriers Village, Inverclyde near Bridge of Weir. I visited, off and on, Quarriers Village between 1962 and 1966. That would mean that I was approximately between the ages of five and ten when I went there.
3. I visited Quarriers mostly during the summer holidays. I do have a recollection of visiting Quarriers on the odd day or overnight visit with my parents outside of the summer time. I also spent time going on holidays with cottage 23 and another cottage to Burntisland during some of the summers.

Background

4. My mother, Elizabeth Aitken, is still alive. She was born in 1918. My dad, Adam Cuthbertson Aitken, died in 1976. He was born in 1923. I have one brother called Ronald Aitken. He is ten years older than me. He left home at the age of sixteen when he joined the RAF. We initially lived in Crosshill in Fife. We later on moved to Fort William.

5. In later life I went on to qualify as a speech and language therapist. In that role I worked with children who had learning difficulties and /or a diagnosis of a communication difficulty. I also would have worked with children who were either in residential care or on foster care placements. I am currently a pupil support worker. I have continued to work with children who have learning difficulties and disorders such as autistic spectrum difficulties. Some of those children are under either residential or foster care.

Quarriers Village, Inverclyde

6. Quarriers was near Bridge of Weir. I don't know how far away it was from there. I've no idea who or what organisation had overall responsibility for Quarriers. I wouldn't have known then and I don't know now.

The village

7. It was like a model village. It looked very pretty. There were lots of Victorian style properties dropped around beautiful parkland. There was lots of green space. There were paths and roads. There were gates and fences round the houses. The houses were all equally spaced. It was all very organised and structured. I remember it all looking like something you would draw. It was like it was its own little town. As a child all that fascinated me.
8. I came from a mining village. We lived in a flat above a shop. Quarriers village was completely different to what I was used to. It was not like Crosshill. It was quiet and in the country. It was rural.
9. Apart from the cottages there was a church and I think a school. There was a shop there. I remember buying sweeties from there. There was a clock tower in the middle of the village.

10. There was a farm attached to Quarriers village. The farm itself was attached to what they called the "epileptic colony." The "colony" was made up of adults who had epilepsy. On reflection, looking back, I now realise it was a place for adults who had learning difficulties. I remember those adults being herded together. They were given purposeful employment. They worked on the farm and made furniture.
11. There was a community space where they put on things. It was a bit like a community hall. I remember going into it but I don't know what I was doing in there. All I remember is that there were lots of people in there. There may well have been organised events and things to do that went on in that space.

How I came to be visiting Quarriers Village, Inverclyde

12. My auntie Esther was a lovely baker. One of the things that we shared together was me being taught to bake. I think that's how the relationship between me and my auntie developed. I think it then developed into my auntie asking my parents whether I would like to go across and stay with them in cottage 23 at Quarriers during weekends and school holidays.
13. My time spent at Quarriers was really only spent in cottage 23 and its garden, at church when we had evensong or at the farm. I have a vague recollection of being in one of the other cottages. I can't remember what number cottage it was. I can't remember anything about that.

Esther and William (Billy) Tangeman

14. My auntie, Esther Tangeman, was my dad's half-sister. I can't remember if she had a middle name. I think her maiden name was Robison. I think she was born around about 1929. That would be an estimation. She didn't have children of her own. She was an aunt that I was particularly close to. I saw quite a lot of her either at Quarriers or when she came to visit us with my uncle.

15. My uncle, William Tangeman, was my mum and dad's brother in law. He was known as Billy. I think he met my aunt in the army. I know my auntie had been a cook in the army. I always presumed that my uncle was the same age as my auntie. He was quite a military gentleman. He'd been in the army and conducted his life in that way. He liked things done with military precision. Looking back, I didn't know any other adults who were regimented in their life in the way uncle Billy was at that time. Although he was my uncle, I wouldn't say I know very much about him. I didn't spend much time with him without my aunt being there. My recollection is that he was very much "in the background". He just "came along with my auntie."
16. I know that my auntie and uncle lived in Liverpool before they came up to work at Quarriers. I suspect it was my auntie Esther who wanted to be back in Scotland and that's why they decided to look for employment up here. My auntie Esther loved children. It was quite a sadness that she couldn't have any of her own. I honestly don't know how they saw the job. All I know is that they then ended up at Quarriers. I don't know when they first started there. To my memory they were always at Quarriers. I don't remember them being anywhere else before they were at Quarriers.
17. As far as I know, my auntie Esther and uncle Billy were both house parents in cottage 23 at Quarriers Village. They worked there full time. I have a feeling that the lead person at Quarriers in cottage 23 was my aunt Esther. That was my understanding of the setup from both the time I visited Quarriers and from later conversations with my mother. I have a feeling that the post was my aunt Esther's and uncle Billy came along with her.
18. My auntie and uncle owned a flat in Kilmacolm whilst they worked at Quarriers. They had that throughout their time at Quarriers. I think, when they had a day off, that is where they de-camped to. The rest of the time they lived at Quarriers.

Other staff at Quarriers

19. There was a lady who I called auntie Jean. She also worked in cottage 23. I think she worked there during the summer holidays. I remember my aunt and uncle discussing dates when auntie Jean would be finishing. I'm guessing that she was the person in charge when my aunt and uncle weren't around or when they were on their day off. I think she was training to do something in social work or childcare. Looking back now I suspect it was either a student placement or a work placement. I can't say that for certain though.
20. I do remember another couple who were house parents. I remember them because they came on the holidays to Burntisland with us. I don't remember their name or the cottage they were attached to. They seemed to be the employees at Quarriers that my aunt and uncle interacted with the most.
21. I did see adults coming and going in the grounds. I can't remember the names of any of them. I can't remember interacting with them. The only staff members I really remember are the ones that I have described in this statement.
22. As far as I know the carers did usually live in the cottages. That said, I do have a recollection of my aunt talking about people who lived outside of the cottages and came in to Quarriers to work.

Cottage 23

23. I can remember a large entrance hall and kitchen and sitting room / playroom which the boys living there would use. I think there was a dining room. It was an old Victorian house that was quite cold. My aunt and uncle had their own sitting room and bedroom in the cottage.

Routine at Quarriers Village, Inverclyde

First impressions

24. My first impression of the physical surroundings of Quarriers was that it was beautiful, shiny and green. There were apple trees, green space, blossom and manicured lawns. It was big open spaces.
25. I was aware from the first time I stepped into cottage 23 that the children were different from the ones I went to school with. Back then I didn't think anything more than the children were "different." They either wanted to follow you about and talk too much to you or held back as if you weren't there.

The children in cottage 23 during my visits to Quarriers

26. I think there were between ten and fifteen boys in the cottage. There were no girls. I can't remember seeing any girls during my visits to Quarriers. I'm sure there were girls there but I don't remember seeing them. The youngest boy I saw in the cottage was four years old. There were lads there who would've been sixteen. I didn't particularly mix in with the children who were in the other cottages. The only time I really got to see them was when we went on holidays to Burntisland.
27. I can't remember any of the names of the boys. I remember the wee boy who was four years old. He had blonde hair. He had been removed from the family home because of some form of abuse. He was with his older sibling in the cottage. I remember my aunt being particularly attached to the wee boy with blonde hair. He had been with her from when he was quite tiny. I think he was a wee bit like the child that auntie Esther never had. I remember my aunt being devastated when that boy moved on to a foster placement. I remember her being upset.
28. There were a couple of boys who were orphans in the cottage. Some of the boys in cottage 23 were quite troubled and troublesome. I remember the older sibling of the wee boy with blonde hair being quite troublesome. There was at least one boy in the

cottage who was there because of his behaviour. He'd been removed from home and school because he had been a bit of a wild boy.

29. There were certainly siblings together in cottage 23. I think it all depended on whether there was space. I do recall my auntie Esther having a conversation with auntie Jean along the lines of "it would've been better for certain siblings to have been split up." I think some were split up and some weren't. I don't know whether it was all done on an availability type thing. I really don't know.
30. I do remember that my aunt wouldn't allow me to be on my own with some of the boys in the cottage. I presume it was because some of them had behavioural problems. I was quite compliant as a child. If my auntie said that I wasn't to be on my own with a particular boy I would just do it. I guess I was too young to need to be given an explanation.

Daily routine

31. When I stayed at the cottage I got up at about 7am. By the time I got up the boys in the house were already downstairs doing chores. Having got washed and dressed, I would go straight downstairs to the kitchen to have my breakfast. I would walk past boys on their hands and knees scrubbing floors or polishing the stairs and bannisters.
32. I had breakfast in the kitchen with my aunt Esther and auntie Jean. The boys had their breakfast separately in the dining room. On a school day the boys then lined up, got their jackets and bags and then went to school. On days when there wasn't school they were allowed out to play for a certain amount of time. Everybody then went back for lunch. I think lunch was about midday. I seem to recall that boys' main meal was at lunchtime. I'm not 100% sure about that.
33. A similar thing would happen in the afternoon. If it was school time the boys were at school. If it wasn't they would be out playing. We would then be back for tea. We had that no later than 5pm. The boys would then do some more chores before

bedtime. It was more of the same. I think they did that for about an hour. I would just entertain myself during that hour in my aunt and uncle's sitting room. I just took myself off.

34. I seem to remember that the boys then went to bed quite early. They were probably in bed by 6:30pm. The boys went to bed long before I went to bed. I would probably have been in bed by 9pm. I remember staying up with my auntie blethering.

Sleeping arrangements

35. I shared a bedroom with auntie Jean when I stayed overnight at cottage 23. That was because accommodation for those who weren't the boys was limited in the cottage. There wasn't a spare bedroom.
36. I think there were two dorms for the boys. I think the boys were split between those dorms. The older boys were kept in a separate dorm to the dorm wee ones were kept in. I have a recollection of seeing one of the dorms where the boys slept. I think I saw it because I was helping out auntie Jean with the cleaning one day whilst the boys were at school. It was a very regimented, clinical dormitory. It was just a line of beds.
37. I don't think that the boys had lockers. I do know they had drawers though. I remember my uncle Billy would rifle through those drawers looking for things. I can remember him saying he was doing that. Presumably he was checking for contraband of some description.

Mealtimes / Food

38. My aunt was an amazing cook. I would get anything I wanted for breakfast. I could have probably had a cooked breakfast if I wanted one. It would certainly be, at the very least, cereal and toast. There would have been boiled eggs and dippy soldiers some days. I don't know what the boys in the dining hall had.

39. My memory tells me that the boys didn't get their breakfast until they had finished their chores. I do remember that the boys had to be silent when they were in the dining room.
40. Breakfast, lunch and tea was always in the kitchen with my aunt and auntie Jean. I don't remember my uncle Billy ever being there. He would come and go but I don't remember him sitting down to a meal with us. That might be because he was on duty with the boys in the dining hall. That would make some sense. I don't know. I remember my auntie Esther and uncle Billy eating in their living room after the boys had gone to bed. It could be that they were both on duty during the boy's teatime and they just had their tea later.
41. I know that my aunt and uncle were given a certain amount of money to feed the boys. I remember my aunt telling me that the boys got extra food in cottage 23 because she put her own resources in. I remember her describing what the boys got in the other cottage only as "good enough food."
42. She made the boys rabbit stews, stuff with dumplings in them and homemade cakes. The boys would have been getting a balanced diet from her. My auntie had an interest in food and had been brought up by a mum who baked and cooked.
43. One of the few things the boys did tell me was that they were better fed than some of the other children in the other cottages. I do remember that they told me they were lucky to be in cottage 23 because they got extra rations. They told me that the other children in the other cottages didn't get that. My aunt was very caring and loved cooking. She did bake cakes and shortbread and things like that.

Washing / bathing

44. I don't remember what the facilities were for the boys. However, I do remember being in a cold bathroom. The bathroom I used wasn't the bathroom that the boys used. Presumably my aunt and uncle had a separate bathroom in their suite of rooms to the boys.

Clothing / uniform

45. The boys had school uniforms and their own clothes. I don't know whether the clothes were ones that had been given to them or they had come in with those clothes. A lot of the clothes were a bit washed out or a bit too small.

Possessions

46. I don't remember the boys having a lot of stuff. They must have had something because I remember them getting gifts on their birthday.

Pocket money

47. I recall the boys and me having a small amount of money to buy sweets when away on holiday but don't know about the rest of the time.

Chores

48. I saw boys cleaning tiles on the floor, toilets and polishing bannisters and stairs. The place smelt of polish. All that struck me as odd because I didn't do that at home. The boys weren't allowed to speak to me whilst they were doing their chores and I was coming down the stairs.
49. The boys took it in turns to do the dishes in the kitchen. That didn't strike me as odd because I would help do that at home. The kitchen was the only place I remember fun and laughter in the cottage. If there were boys helping out in the kitchen my auntie Esther would be very affectionate. What I saw in the kitchen was more like the interactions I was accustomed to at home. That wasn't the atmosphere throughout the rest of the house. I don't remember there being a whole lot of fun and laughter outside of the kitchen.

School

50. I think there was a school on site but it could have been a local school where the children went to. I was there when the boys went to school. There must have been a slight difference in school term times. I can remember the children going to school and me being left in the cottage with my auntie Esther. All I remember is thinking there was a school on site. I don't remember hearing anything about the school.

Religious instruction

51. I do remember that it was all Church of Scotland. I remember the boys all had to go to church. I don't remember ever going to the church during the day. I would have gone to church with the boys sometimes. I only remember ever going to the church in the evening. I only remember that happening once a week.
52. I loved singing. Any chance I had to go harmony singing in a church I would take. I used to go to evensong at the church at Quarriers. That was a treat for me. I would have gone to church when at home with my mum

Trips / Holidays

53. We used to go on holidays to Burtisland during the summers for two weeks. There would be something like twenty or thirty boys who would go on those holidays. I think I travelled with the Quarriers children to Burtisland when they went on their summer holidays. I can't remember whether I went with them by bus or by train or if my dad drove me there.
54. It wasn't just our cottage that went. There was definitely another group of children there. It was between twenty to thirty kids who went. I have no memory of what cottage they came from. I remember that the children from the other cottage who went with us on holiday were quite careful to literally jump to attention to do things when they were asked. They appeared frightened.

55. The other cottage's house mother came along. The helper to that cottage also came. I have a vision of them but I can't recall their names. My aunt Esther and auntie Jean were there from cottage 23. I can't remember my uncle Billy being there. It could be that he stayed behind. I don't remember if there were any other helpers there.
56. We stayed in somewhere that was either a church hut or a scout hut. It was a big hut with rows of camp beds. There were fairly limited toilet facilities. We all slept in one big space, adults and children, in the camp beds. I slept next to auntie Jean and my aunt up at the end. We all ate together on refectory tables. It was all really just like camping.
57. Days were spent on the beach digging holes in the sand. We were allowed into the town to buy sweeties and things like that. To me it felt like freedom. I think that it did to the boys as well. The boys didn't have chores to do other than taking turns to clear tables and wash up. It all felt happy, jolly and a bit of fun. To me it felt right.
58. I can remember that on the holidays I was allowed to do things that the other children weren't allowed to do. I was allowed to go off to the shops on my own. They weren't. I don't remember any other trips other than travelling to Burntisland.

Birthdays and Christmas

59. I do remember the boys having birthdays. My aunt made them a birthday cake. I remember that the boys said that the boys in the other cottages wouldn't necessarily get a birthday cake. I don't know whether the older children got birthday cakes in cottage 23. Certainly up until the ages of ten or eleven my auntie baked them a birthday cake. I remember boys also getting a present. I don't think it was loads of presents but I do remember children getting presents.
60. I wasn't there during Christmas time nor heard anything about Christmas time from the boys.

Leisure time

61. The boys had a communal space where there were some books, board games, dominoes and colouring in books. It was like a sitting room. I do remember being in there. The children who were in there with me were allowed to play as long as they didn't make too much noise. I seem to remember that the boys who were with me were of a similar age to me. It could be that that room was only for the younger children. To me it felt that the boys almost weren't allowed to play when they reached a certain age. That's what I thought as a child.
62. I remember a radio in the kitchen but I don't remember a radio in any of the communal spaces. I don't remember there being a television.
63. I don't remember a playground. I don't remember swings and a slide. I don't remember a football pitch or a swimming pool. That's not to say that those things weren't there its just I don't remember them. All I remember, in terms of outdoor facilities, is running around on the grass and children climbing trees.
64. I don't think that there was a lot of playing went on in Quarriers Village. The children had a lot of chores to do and seemed to stay in their cottages. I don't remember it being a place where children were out in the grounds skipping and jumping and doing stuff. I do remember there were points when the children were allowed to play but it certainly wasn't the focus for the children who were there.
65. What I remember about the boys being out in the garden is that they didn't do anything purposeful or meaningful. There seemed to be a lot of milling around. I can't remember any organised games. Occasionally there were lads climbing trees.

Visiting the farm

66. I remember going to the farm that they had in Quarriers. I would go up with a couple of boys or with auntie Jean. We would spend ages petting the newly born calves or

lambs. We would give them extra pellets and stuff like that. I remember that I would get tired of petting the animals long before the boys who were there did.

67. There must have been adults milling about the farm whilst we were there but I don't remember them supervising us. Auntie Jean didn't supervise. There was no one who said that we had to go at a certain time or something like that. We could see the clock tower from the farm. We could keep an eye on that to make sure we were back in time.

Visits / Inspections

68. Visitors visiting wasn't a regular occurrence. Every now and again there were visitors who came in to visit the boys for some reason. There were certainly people who came in and out of the cottage.
69. I do recall one of the boys being taken out by a family member. They came to collect the boy and they were taken out for the day. That's all I remember about that. I also vaguely remember a mother visiting one of the boys whilst being supervised. If there was stuff like that happening I was probably tucked away in auntie Esther's quarters or something during those visits.
70. I don't remember seeing anyone "professional" visiting. I don't remember inspectors or inspections. I don't recall my aunt ever saying "oh we have 'so and so' coming in and will be asking questions." I don't know who there would have been back then who would have looked into what was happening. I don't recall anyone coming to look to see what was going on. I don't recall anyone coming in asking the boys what was happening. I think that my aunt and uncle were left pretty much to do their own thing.

Healthcare

71. I remember there being a medical wing or a "sick bay." It was like a "medical cottage." I remember it having a red cross on its outside. I'm guessing that children

were sent there if it wasn't something serious. Looking upon it as an adult "barrier nursing" would have probably been provided there. By that I mean they probably put children who had illnesses there to avoid illnesses spreading to other children.

Bed-wetting

72. There were boys who wet the beds. Without a doubt that happened. I remember auntie Jean stripping someone's bed and dealing with it before my uncle found out. I remember my auntie and uncle were away on a day off. I remember that quite clearly. I remember the flurry of activity. I remember the boy concerned crying. He was a teenager. He was quite a big lad. I suspect auntie Jean dealt with it and never told my aunt and uncle. I suspect that because I remember auntie Jean saying to the boy "don't worry they won't know."

My impressions of the boys in cottage 23

73. The boys that were in the cottage were not like the children I had come across when I went to school in Fife and Fort William. When I saw the boys going around the cottage they were quiet and subdued. My impression as a child was that they had to accept it as their lot because they had no other option. The interactions I had with the boys were not like the interactions I had with the boys I went to school with. It was different. They didn't say very much. They didn't open up to me. I remember having a conversation with my mum about it. She would've said something along the lines of "think how lucky you are ."
74. I kind of learnt from day one that because the children behaved differently that was just the way that it was. I didn't really question it too much. As a child I just put it in my head as it's just that they haven't had as privileged a life as I had. As a child that was enough for me to process it.
75. In hindsight, looking back with my professional hat on, some of those boys probably had autism, ADHD and general learning difficulties. Some of them definitely had

specific diagnoses. A couple of them clearly were victims of whatever circumstances their home life had given them before they went to Quarriers. They were troubled and disturbed. I can see, because of that, how it would not have been an easy cottage for my auntie and uncle to manage. It would have been hard work.

Discipline and punishment in cottage 23

The regime

76. It was very strict in the cottage. I remember boys crying. They referred to my aunt and uncle as "Mister" and "Missus." I remember some of the boys saying "quick Mister's coming." I can remember my uncle shouting at the boys. I came from a home where I wasn't shouted at. The shouting was strange to me. It was shouting with military precision. The boys literally would stand to attention when my uncle shouted at them. My uncle expected the boys to jump to attention and do what he wanted them to do when he asked them to do it. My uncle Billy treated the children as if they were at boot camp. If he said "stop and stand to attention" that's exactly what he meant.
77. The boys weren't frightened of my aunt. She had clear expectations and boundaries as well but I don't remember the boys being fearful of her. The boys were respectful of her but they weren't frightened of her like they were with my uncle.
78. Certainly my impression was that the expectation was that if they were asked to do something and they didn't do it, or had done something that they shouldn't have, then there was a punishment of some sort. What I don't know is what that punishment was because I didn't really see it.

Boys standing staring at walls

79. I remember that there was occasionally a boy stood standing staring at a wall. It wasn't always the same child. At the time I didn't know whether that was a

punishment or whether it was a behavioural thing. In hindsight, I think the boys I saw staring at the wall may have been doing that as a punishment.

Chores as discipline and punishment

80. I was completely thrown by the boys doing these chores because I couldn't work out what that was all about. I guess I just set it aside as something that was just what it was. I didn't have to do things like polishing or washing the stairs before breakfast. I knew at the time that that was strange and odd. It was especially odd when the boys were cleaning things with toothbrushes. It felt "not right."
81. I remember being wary about that situation because I was worried that if I did speak to them they would get into trouble. I didn't like being around when the boys were doing their chores. I had enough sense to know that it wouldn't have been nice me frolicking about having a lovely time in front of them whilst they were doing their chores.
82. I think the chores were an expectation of what the boys had to do to earn their keep. I suspect there may have been extra chores dished out as a punishment. I say that because I do recall there occasionally only being one child doing the polishing after the other boys had finished their chores. I remember seeing boys on their own cleaning tiles on the floor and toilets with a toothbrush. In my head I thought, as a child, that the boys who were being made to do that were in trouble. Perhaps that was just me joining up the dots.

My Aunt Esther Tangeman's comments about carers and children in other cottages

83. I know my aunt didn't have a terribly high opinion of the carers who were in the other cottages. I remember her making comments that they weren't "treating the children right." My aunt frequently commented that the people in the other cottages were not nice to the boys. I remember my aunt telling me that children in the other homes got physically punished. That was all she said. She never said which cottages or

disclosed the nature of that. What she meant by that I didn't know then and I don't know now.

84. She kept her distance from the staff in other cottages. She also must have recognised that my uncle Billy was too strict. I don't know how she reconciled those two things.
85. I don't think my auntie told me to keep clear of the other cottages. I don't think she needed to because I didn't really wander very far from cottage 23 other than going to the farm. I was quite young so I wouldn't go far. My auntie would ask me where I was going but I don't think she stopped me from going anywhere. I do remember thinking that I didn't want to go up to any of the other cottages. There was nothing that made me feel welcome there so I didn't go. There was nothing about them that made me feel like I wanted to go and knock on their door.

Visits by my own parents and their opinion of Quarriers

86. My mum and dad didn't stay at Quarriers when I visited. They would stay in my auntie and uncle's house in Kilmacolm. At the time, I thought that my mum and dad didn't stay in Quarriers when I was there because they wanted some time on their own. My mum has since told me that my dad refused to go into Quarriers village. She said that he refused to go the other side of the gates at the entrance. My mum has told me that my dad didn't want to stay there because he didn't like the way in which the children were treated. Apparently, my dad's words were when he talked about why he didn't stay or visit Quarriers "because of what goes on there." He didn't say anything more than that.
87. I couldn't possibly comment on anything else he may have seen or heard. As an adult looking back I can see why my dad possibly wouldn't have liked visiting Quarriers.

Stopping visiting Quarriers

88. I'm not sure why I stopped going to Quarriers to visit and stay. I wonder whether it was we because we moved to Fort William and the distance was too much. I guess I got older. Maybe my parents felt it was inappropriate to take an older girl into a cottage of boys. That may have been a part of it. Maybe there was a discussion between my mum and dad that I don't know about. I don't know.
89. There wasn't a big discussion about why I wasn't to go anymore. It just stopped happening. I don't recall having an issue with that. We certainly continued to see my aunt and uncle. However, they came to see us rather than us going to see them.

Aunt Esther's interactions with children after they left cottage 23

90. My aunt followed up quite a few of the boys. She always tried to keep in touch with them. A few of them ended up with prison sentences for petty things. I don't recall them going to prison for anything major. I know a couple of the boys went on to be very successful. I remember hearing that they used to come back to visit. Some of the boys would send photographs when they got married and things like that.

Recollection of auntie and uncle Tangeman after they left Quarriers

91. My auntie and uncle ultimately retired from Quarriers. I know they were retired by 1976 but I can't remember the exact year they retired. I would guess they retired when my aunt turned sixty. This would have been in 1972
92. They initially moved into their flat in Kilmalcolm permanently. My memory of what happened after that is a bit blurry. At some point my uncle Billy died and my auntie ended up on Rothesay. She had a brother, my dad's half-brother, there. I think that's why she moved there. In the end she moved back to Liverpool. I don't think my auntie ever really settled after she left Quarriers. I think she lost her focus.

93. I don't recall the last time I saw my uncle. I think it was our wedding in 1976. I continued to see my aunt after he died. The last time I saw her was in 1985 just before she died. She remained pretty much the same person she had always been. There was a bitterness about her. Maybe that was because she had never been able to have her own children. Maybe she felt that life hadn't dealt her the cards that she had wanted. She never really talked about Quarriers after she left. I didn't really ask her about it. It all seemed to be "put behind her."

Lessons to be learned

94. When I work with children now, Quarriers is a reminder of the path not to go down. It's often in my thoughts when thinking about the package that could be delivered to children. We have moved a long way away from what was offered by Quarriers.
95. My experiences at Quarriers have made me value the childhood I had. I particularly felt that way when I was going through my training. When we were training we had to look back on care we had experienced. Thinking about my visits to Quarriers made me treasure the childhood I had with my parents in Crosshill and Fort William.
96. I have looked for anything I have in terms of pictures or records connected to my auntie and uncle's time at Quarriers. I couldn't find anything. I think there is a postcard somewhere but it's just a publicity shot or something.

Compassion and nurturing at Quarriers

97. It felt that there was a lack of compassion at Quarriers. It just didn't feel like a happy and content place to be. I got the feeling back then that there wasn't a lot of caring that went on. I've been left with the impression that it was all nice, organised and shiny but there was no real feeling of care. It just never felt right. It felt like everybody was on edge all of the time. It felt as if someone was always going to be in trouble for something at some point in time.

98. Looking back there was certainly no emotional nurturing other than what my aunt did. In hindsight, I think that my aunt could only do that when my uncle wasn't around. I think my uncle would have thought she was being soft on them. I think, because of that, she could only dish it out in measured quantities. I do know she behaved in a different way when my uncle was there. I remember finding that tricky as a child. It took me a wee while to work that out.
99. As a child I didn't understand that I was feeling guilty about being treated differently to the other children when I visited my aunt. In hindsight, as an adult, I realise that I did feel guilty. I did feel bad that those boys couldn't speak to me in the mornings. I think I just dealt with that by equating it as being just part of the punishment.
100. As an adult looking back I feel far worse about it all. It was a dreadful way to treat boys who had come from broken homes. They were boys who had lost both parents, come from abusive homes or been in desperate poverty. They had gone through that and found themselves in what was essentially a "boot camp." It was a Victorian approach to care.
101. Looking back on it all as an adult I do recognise that I grew up in a time when we got our bottoms smacked if we misbehaved. I was belted at school if I did something wrong. I would say that I certainly grew up with physical punishment at school and very occasionally at home. For me, however, that sort of treatment was not often. Whether it was right or wrong I understood why it was done. There were clear expectations but they were delivered with love and care. It didn't cause me undue distress. It seemed reasonable.
102. The life those boys were leading was austere, strict and unreasonable. At the end of the day they were children. Some of them were troubled children. Everything seemed to be driven by rules and expectations. It felt as if the boys didn't behave in a particular way then there would be a punishment or a consequence.


Thoughts as a professional who works with children looking back

103. As a professional looking back I have to question who was asking questions, doing checks and monitoring and seeing whether everything was ok. The care provided certainly wasn't child led with the child's needs and wants being taken into account. I don't think any of the boys would have had an input into what was going on with their care.
104. I think that the people caring for these children thought what they were doing was right. They viewed themselves as caring and felt that the children needed discipline and clear boundaries. I think they just forgot about the emotional nurturing side of things. I do believe that. I think they just saw it as the way that the boys could be managed. I think that was why nobody did anything about it.
105. What I don't know is what information professionals had available to them at that time. I can't comment on whether people were aware of, or didn't have, the information to allow them to properly look after the children. I don't know what people knew in the early sixties about nurturing and things like that. I would however, hope that there is now no professional in the land who would think that the way people were cared for there was an ok way to deliver care to children.
106. I hope we've moved forward and we are now looking at child led and based care. We should now be looking at care as something that isn't just there to meet the needs of the adult carers. I hope that we make sure that the care delivered in institutions is child centred and as loving as it can be. At the end of the day, institutional care is not going to be the same as the care that can be provided in a family home. However, whatever the setting you can still deliver compassion. I know that from what I do now.
107. I know the benefits that can be gained for children through having nothing more than having an adult listen to them for half an hour once a week. I see the impact that has on the child. Even though a child is in institutional care they should still have

that compassion delivered to them and be listened to. You can nurture someone in any environment.

108. If there are apologies to be made they should be made. If children were harmed at Quarriers then there should be an acknowledgement of that. I would hope that any of the concerns that those children are raising now as adults are treated seriously and that they are listened to.

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

Signed.....

Dated.....2/10/18.....