

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

Stephen FINDLETON

Support person present: Yes

Life before going into care



1. My name is Stephen Findleton. I was born on [REDACTED] 1958. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.
2. I was born in Govan in Glasgow. I lived with my parents [REDACTED]. When I was about three years old, my mother left the family home. That was the first time I was put into care. I don't know the circumstances around why my father put me [REDACTED] in care.
3. I was put into Quarriers Children's Home, [REDACTED] for the first time in March 1962. I was three years old and it was a month before my fourth birthday when I went in. I was in for nine months, and [REDACTED] came out in December 1962. I don't know the circumstances of why my father put me [REDACTED] in care.

Quarriers Children's Home

4. I have some memory of the first time I was put into Quarriers in March 1962 as a four year old. I was in cottage 8. It was run by Mr and Mrs Aitken, who were the house parents.

5. I remember there was a field outside the home, which had horses in it and we'd go to see them. I remember going horse riding. I remember there was a park in the home and we went there in the summer of 1962 because they had something on for children. My family were all there, except for my mother.
6. I left Quarriers in December 1962, after being there for nine months.

Life back at home

7. When I came out of the home in December 1962, we'd moved to Drumchapel in Glasgow and my mother was back home. I was home for about three years. 

8. I started primary school in 1963 when I was five years old. I remember a normal home life. My family moved to another part of Drumchapel when I was six years old, and we were still all together.
9. I was home for about three years before being put back into Quarriers, in November 1965, when I was seven years old. It was arranged through the Glasgow Children's Welfare department. I stayed there for six years, until I was thirteen. I left on 17 August 1971.

Quarriers Children's Home

First day

10. I remember my first day in the home was a Sunday, on 1st November 1965. I don't remember the journey, but I remember that a senior member of Quarriers staff, called Mr Dunbar, drove us there from Glasgow.

11. I remember sitting in a big room with a bay window, which was the small cottage hospital. My father was called into the office and then [REDACTED] called in.
12. We were standing in the hall [REDACTED] My father had to leave to make his own way back to Glasgow. He gave [REDACTED] half a crown [REDACTED] I can still picture his face and how upset he was as he was going out the front door. It's very upsetting for me even now when I remember that.
13. I threw the money on the ground and said: "I don't want the money. I want my daddy" and started to cry. [REDACTED]
14. Every cottage had a head boy or head girl who was the oldest. The oldest in our cottage was a girl called [REDACTED] and she took [REDACTED] into the playroom and told [REDACTED] to stop crying. [REDACTED] actually killed herself when she was eighteen.
15. I think a Dr Minto was in charge of the home when we went in.
16. There were about 500 children in the home when I was there. There were 42 cottages for children and other cottages for staff. There were three baby homes for the children who came in as babies. When they were older they'd be moved into the cottages. The age range of children were from babies right up to the age of seventeen, as far as I know. Some children stayed in for weeks and months and some stayed for years. It depended on your family circumstances.



First cottage

17. I was in two cottages during my time at Quarriers and I was in this first cottage for most of the six years I was there.
18. In the cottage, there were two big playrooms rooms downstairs. At the back of the playroom, there was a door and a few steps going down into a small hall, which had the main bathroom and a separate small toilet off the hall. This toilet was used during

the day. The bathroom had two baths and there were mirrors and sinks along one wall. There were double doors at the end of the small hall with couple of steps going down into a shed. It was a big cottage with five bedrooms on the upstairs landing.

19. There were fifteen children in each cottage. We had two boys' bedrooms and one girls' bedrooms. There were five beds and five children in each room. There was a small toilet in the upstairs corridor for our use at night time. The house parent had her own bedroom and bathroom, and the cottage aunty had a single bedroom
20. Right away we had to call the house parent "mummy." I had my mum and dad and didn't like it, but we had no choice.
21. The next memory I have is from 5th November 1965. We would have a fireworks display every year on that day in the park behind the church, where the tennis court was with the mesh around it. We'd stand around and watch the fireworks, then go to the other end of the school and have a bonfire. That is my first memory.
22. There was a drapery in Quarriers where you were sent to get clothes if you needed anything. There was also a laundry because there were no washing machines in the cottages.

Daily routine

23. 
 I was put into the middle boys bedroom and could see right out to the top landing.
24. In the mornings, we woke up at 7 am. The bed had to be made in a particular way in the mornings after you woke up, and the house parent showed us how to do it. We got dressed into our school uniforms and went to the bathroom downstairs. We

washed and brushed our teeth. The toothpaste came in a round tin. It wasn't proper toothpaste.

25. We had to set the table before breakfast. After breakfast, the table was cleared and dishes were washed. We all had different jobs, whether it was setting the table, clearing up, washing or drying the dishes.
26. [REDACTED] I went to the school. School was from 9 am until 4 pm. We came back to the cottage at lunchtime. We set the table, had lunch, and had to wash the dishes and clean up before going back to school.
27. When we came back from school, we got changed into our normal clothes.
28. We had a television in the dining and television room. We were allowed to sit and watch that for a while before bed. We would watch The Magic Roundabout.
29. Bedtime was 6 pm for younger children and you could stay up a bit longer if you were older. We would brush our teeth, go up to bed and say our prayers before bed.
30. The house parent used to go round the rooms after the lights were out at night time to check everybody was in bed. She would come and stand at my bed and say that she wanted the good boy and not the bad boy. I don't know why. She also used to say the human body was dirty and disgusting. I don't know why anyone would say that to a child. I was only about eight or nine years old. I don't know if she said this to other children. She always wanted me to give my chair up for girl and open doors. She wanted me to be the perfect gentleman. She was the mummy and wanted perfect little children.
31. The routine on a Saturday was that you'd get up in the morning and have your breakfast, then we had chores to do. This started from as soon as I went in aged seven. [REDACTED]

32. The whole morning was spent doing chores. You had to sweep and polish the linoleum. It was like the old linoleum you got in hospitals. You had to scrub and clean the big kitchen range in the kitchen. You always tried to finish quickly, and you would be worried you wouldn't finish in time if you had a visitor. We had cleaners come in once a week to clean as well.
33. The younger children in the cottage got sent to bed at 6 pm. The older kids got to go to bed later. The doors weren't locked at night.

Food and mealtimes

34. Breakfast in the morning would be cereal, grapefruit, or sometimes a kipper, which nobody liked.
35. We would eat in the dining room. The house parent would sit at a separate table so she could see us all. We said grace before our meal. We had to finish what was on our plate. If you didn't, then she'd stand over you until you finished it. All the other children would be cleared up and washing their plate. She would stand over you, right against your back until you finished. This could be for an hour or two. She would tell you not to bother crying if you were crying. She did this to me and other children.
36. One time at the dinner table, she had made a meal that none of the children liked. She wasn't happy because she couldn't stand over fifteen children. She did all of the cooking and baking herself. The food was quite bland.
37. We would sometimes have our meals at the table in the kitchen if other children were away. There was a girl there with her brother and one time she was crying. Instead of asking what was wrong with her, the house parent said to her: "don't bother turning on the water works." She didn't have an ounce of sympathy for the girl. I remember she was always hard on this particular girl. She was a hard woman.

38. Our daily chores would be to help set the table and wash up after every meal. We would also sweep and clean up.

Bath times

39. We washed every morning, but we probably got bathed once a week. There was a warm bath and then a petition wall, and a big old fashioned bath.
40. At bath time, we would all sit on a bench with towels around us and we'd be called in for a bath. The house parent would wash you and it was quite embarrassing. She did that up until you were ten or eleven years old. The cottage aunty would bath you if the house parent was away. I don't remember much about her.
41. The second cottage aunty was Dutch and I think she came in 1967. She was alright I think. Then we had another cottage aunty who was in her early twenties. One time she was left in charge when the house parent was on holiday and we ran riot. The cottage aunty couldn't control us and a window got smashed in the dining room. She had to call a house parent from another cottage. As soon as he walked in the door, that was us back to behaving ourselves.

Schooling

42. We went to William Quarriers School in the village. I studied normal things like history, music, joinery and English.
43. The English teacher, Mrs QAC, was very hard on me. If she heard you speaking one word, she would call you out and give you the belt. The art teacher, QAI QAI, would run at you when he gave you the belt. I got the belt quite a lot in school. It was painful. They were quite hard on us.
44. The older boys made a sailing dinghy in the joinery room at school. They then took it down to Lochwinnoch for sailing. I wasn't involved in building it, but was taken on a mini bus to sail in it a couple of times.

Religious Instruction

45. It was supposed to be a Christian organisation and the church was Church of Scotland. We went to church on a Sunday morning and Sunday evening. I also used to go to Sunday school. We got dressed properly in a shirt and tie and marched to church in pairs of two. The house parent would be at the back and the house aunty at the front. The service was an hour long. I enjoyed Sunday school.
46. We used to go to church on a Wednesday evening too but they stopped that after a while.

Leisure Time

47. During the week, we could play after tea time. This was after we had cleared the table and washed up. We could play in the playroom and there were toys in there. We would have our own toys if you got them from your mother or father, and could keep them in lockers against one wall.
48. We could play outside in the summer. We would go to the park, which had swings and a pond. We would also just go around the village. We could also watch TV.
49. There was also a swimming pool in Quarriers, which was built in 1966. Bobby McGregor, the famous Scottish swimmer opened it. They also built us a sports centre, which John Grieg and the Rangers Team opened.
50. We could go swimming whenever we wanted. Mr Houston ran the baths. He had a small two bedroom bungalow beside the pool where he lived with his wife and daughter. He was alright and quite fair. He wasn't bad to the children. He would just tell us not to run in case we fell.
51. We could also roller skate in the sports centre and there was a trampoline in the corner.

52. On a Saturday, if we had no visitors, we could play all day if we wanted to. We could play in the park and the big clock would chime, so we knew when to go home. We didn't get to play on a Sunday.
53. There were also organised activities. I was in the Boy's Brigade until I was twelve, and then I was in the Army Cadets. This was once a week within Quarriers village for the Quarriers kids. We went to different places with the Army Cadets and I remember going to the firing range in Paisley.
54. We would have a sports day down in the park and all the children would take part. There were three football pitches. There was one ash football pitch and two grass pitches across the river. There was also a Quarriers football team and other schools would come and play against Quarriers in competitions. I was never good enough to play football.
55. There was a library in the school. I used to read the Famous Five books by Enid Blyton. That was my escape from Quarriers. In my mind I was away from it all when I read.
56. There was a big hall in Quarriers and they would put films or concerts on for us in there. We would go there for prize giving. Glenn Michael came twice for prize giving at Quarriers.
57. When we got older, we got to go to Bridge of Weir, which was a village a couple of miles from Quarriers.

Healthcare

58. Quarriers had a small cottage hospital where we had regular check-ups. We had our inoculations there too. They also had the dentist in there. It was self-contained in Quarriers village.

59. I used to go to the eye infirmary in Sauchiehall Street in Glasgow because of my eyes. Mr Dunbar and the house parent would take me for my check-ups.

Trips and holidays

60. We would have day trips away with the home. We would get taken to Paisley to watch films. We went to see Bambi once. We were also taken to see wrestling. We went to see a show in Drumchapel one night.
61. In summer 1968, I was among a group of older boys who were taken on a day trip to Ostend in Belgium. We were leaving from Glasgow, and I remember getting a row from Mr Dunbar on the plane for being excited.
62. We used to go on holiday to a place called Little Turnberry in Girvan every summer, for two weeks. It was a bungalow and a farmhouse owned by a millionaire businessman called Mr Hodge. He let the Quarriers use it every year and also paid for us to go to Culzean Castle for the day. He wasn't married and had no children. He would come to see us and would always give us half a crown each. He was a nice man. He's dead now
63. Mr Hodge would have a mini bus for us as well. He would pay for us to go to Butlins in Ayr for a day. In the late 1960s, he spent 21 thousand pounds and built a swimming pool for us so we stopped going to Butlins. Two or three cottages would go at a time on a green double decker bus. Other children went to a house in Burnt Island.
64. The holidays were a little bit better than being in Quarriers. We still got disciplined, and the house parent would still get you into trouble, but she couldn't lock you up.
65. There were three properties that we were in when we went to Butlins, that we called the farm house. One time when we were there, I had wet and soiled the bed because I was too scared to go to the toilet on my own in the dark. In the morning,

the house parent told us to get up and I told her what I had done. She told me to go to the bathroom to get cleaned up, and told me I was dirty and disgusting.

66. After breakfast, we were out playing and she called me over. Other children came over with me too. The house aunty was standing with her. She told me I was dirty and disgusting and they weren't on holiday to wipe up my dirty mess she completely humiliated me in front of the other children. I think I was ten or eleven years old at the time.

Birthdays and Christmases

67. On Christmas morning, we would go down into the playroom. There would be big pillow cases with your name on it full of presents in the middle of the floor. These were from your family. I don't know where the orphan children got their presents from, but everybody got something. Then we would go to church for service. There would be presents at the altar, which would be handed out to children after the service. I don't know where they came from. Maybe they were donated.
68. There would be a big tree and decorations up in church, and we would have a tree in the cottage. We would get Christmas dinner. I only remembered last week that we would get a Christmas pudding and there would be thrupenny bits or a tanner, which we would get. I don't remember much about Christmas.
69. I don't remember if the staff marked birthdays.

Discipline and punishment

70. There was a grass area in front of the cottage where you could play. The cottage behind ours had a drive way where you could play. There was a grass area next to it which belonged to another cottage. If you were caught on that grass area, The house parent would send you to bed without your tea. I don't know why. This would be any time of the day she caught you.

71. I ran away twice to get away from the cottage and Quarriers. I think there were five of us the first time. We decided to go and we ran out of the front door at night time. We ran into the countryside and into a farm, up to the hay loft. We heard a noise and thought it was the farmer so we made our way back to Quarriers. We hid behind a wall on the main road before going back into Quarriers. The house father from the main cottage chased us and was trying to grab us. We were running about petrified. I was taken back to the cottage. There would have been consequences but I don't remember what they were.
72. The second time we just hid in a public toilet and we lay on the floor in there in the dark. We didn't know what to do so we just made our way back to the cottage. We hid in the coal shed at the back of the cottage. In the morning, the house parent opened the door up and told us to get ready for school. We asked how she knew we were there and she said she heard us coming in during the night. She said that she'd deal with us later. She had known we were there, but she left us. I can't remember what the punishment was, but the normal punishment was that you'd get straight back from school, get changed and be sent to bed.

Abuse in Quarriers

73. If you were caught talking in bed, the house parent would call you downstairs. I don't know if she recognised your voice or if she asked first who was talking. If she called you, you had to go down and she'd be waiting at the bottom of the stairs. You would go down in your pyjamas.
74. When you got downstairs, she would put you over her knee and pull your pyjamas down before smack you on the bottom with her hand. She would smack you very very hard. You would stand up and be crying. She would then take you through the playroom and into the shed at the back of the cottage. She would bolt the door behind her and leave you in the dark for an hour.

75. You would be crying from the pain and also from the fear of dark. You'd be shouting: "please mummy, please mummy." I would stay on the step because I was scared of the dark. I don't remember ever being locked up with anyone else. You would stand there for an hour before she came back and told you to go to your bed, and you would say: "yes mummy."
76. The smacking and being locked in the shed started straight away from when I went into the home at seven years old. I didn't understand it when it first happened because our mother and father had never beaten us or locked us up for talking in bed.
77. This was a woman who we trusted and looked up to and she called us down, beat us and locked us up for talking. This happened to me on numerous occasions. It was the same routine with all the children. I could see other children going down and hear them getting hit and crying and taken away to back of the cottage and being locked up for an hour. It could happen at any time of the night. It happened all year round. It didn't matter if it was summer or winter.

Bed wetting

78. If you wet the bed, the house parent would humiliate you in front of the other children. We all had rubber sheets on the bed and most children wet their beds. I think one of the reasons was that we were scared to go to the toilet in the dark. We had linoleum on the floor, not carpets and you'd slide across trying to be quiet so that she wouldn't catch you.
79. The house parent never asked why you wet the bed or try to find out the reason. She would ridicule you in front of everyone. The house parent would strip the beds. I can't remember if we ever had to strip the bed. It was the same for all the children.
80. It is hard to think of any good times. All you remember are the bad times. I suppose going on holiday and going to Butlins was good. I enjoyed going swimming, but there was bullying from the other boys as well.

81. One Sunday morning after the church service, we were walking back from the church and this boy started picking on me and bullying me. The house parent was right behind me and saw it happening but didn't do anything. There was a boy from Glasgow who was there with his brother, and he intervened and told the bully to leave me. He used to stick up for me.

Family and social work visits

82. My father got custody [REDACTED] in 1968 when my mother and father divorced. Visiting day was on a Saturday. My father used to visit, but I can't remember if it was fortnightly or monthly.
83. I felt happy and safe when my father was there. He would take [REDACTED] to Bridge of Weir for a couple of hours. I was always unhappy and asking my father when [REDACTED] could go home.
84. [REDACTED] My father sometimes took [REDACTED] home for the weekend [REDACTED] I remember going home for New Year in 1971 at the time of the Ibrox disaster. [REDACTED] was at the match and got out just in the nick of time. My father was very worried about him.
85. My mother also visited a few times. but sometimes she would come on a Sunday. I was closer to my Father. My mother would sometimes send comics and money. The house parent would keep the money in her study and she'd give it to you when you went on holiday.
86. There was also a time in 1962 when my uncles, aunties and cousins came for a sports day we had in the park.
87. We used to get visits from a social worker. It was a woman but I can't remember her name. The house parent would tell you to say that you were happy before the visit. The social worker would take me [REDACTED] into the house parent's study for

the meeting. The house parent wouldn't be there. The social worker would ask [REDACTED] how [REDACTED] getting on and if [REDACTED] happy, and [REDACTED] would say [REDACTED] fine and [REDACTED] happy.

88. [REDACTED] couldn't tell anybody that [REDACTED] happy because nobody listened. I couldn't even tell my father. I think it would have made him upset. He would have asked questions and Quarriers would have just said it was not true. You were just left on your own and cried in your bed at night time.

89. I don't remember how many times the social worker visited. [REDACTED] still in the care of the Children's Welfare Department in Glasgow, even though [REDACTED] in Quarriers.

Second cottage

90. I was moved to another cottage just before my thirteenth birthday. I don't know why I got moved. [REDACTED] Another boy also got moved to another cottage when I was moved.

91. A husband and wife were in charge of the second cottage and had two sons. I don't have many memories of them because I was just there for a short time. I think we just called them by their names.

92. The routine was the same as in the first cottage. I don't really remember much about the discipline and punishment. I remember that the male house parent would tell you to shut up if you tried to say something if you were in trouble. He wouldn't listen to you.

Thirteenth birthday

93. On my thirteenth birthday, I was walking down to school with another boy. There was a park behind the school and a river behind Quarriers. I told the boy not to tell anyone it was my birthday, but as soon as we walked round, I was surrounded by a group of children. They covered me in eggs and flour. I was standing crying and they

were all laughing. I went back to the cottage to shower and change, and then went back to school.

94. Later in the afternoon, at playtime, the same group of children dragged me across the park. I was pleading with them not to. They threw me over the fence and into the river. They were laughing and thought it was funny. One of the lads chased me. The school bell rang and I just sat there as they went back to school. I then went back to the cottage. The cottage aunty told me that the female house parent wouldn't be pleased with me because I got through a second set of uniform in one day. I don't remember the cottage aunty's name
95. Later that day, after tea, I was at the back of the cottage ringing out my uniform. The female house parent came down and I tried to tell her who did this to me. She said: "once you finish that, go to your bed." She wouldn't listen to me. She wasn't interested and was angry I had gone through two sets of uniform. It was my thirteenth birthday and she sent me to bed at 6 pm. I went to bed crying.

Leaving Quarriers

96. I was only in the second cottage for a matter of months. I went in from March 1971 until August 1971. My dad took me out of Quarriers when I was thirteen. By that time, he probably thought I was old enough to look after myself. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
97. I left on 17th August 1971. I remember it was a nice sunny morning. I was woken early and was feeling happy because my father was coming to get me. I was talking to another boy when the female house parent said my father had come early to get me. I went to make the bed as I did every morning and she told me to leave the bed and get ready. She was standing over me in the playroom as I was trying to get my stuff together. She said: "your father had no right coming at this time in the morning." I think it was just before or after 7 am and my dad had come straight off his night

shift. It wasn't my fault. She had left him standing outside. I was crying as she was telling me off. I ended up leaving stuff behind.

98. I can still see the anger on her face. She opened the door to let me out. I said: "cheerio" and she never said anything to me.

Life after care

99. My father had a dark blue Austin Cambridge estate parked outside Quarriers, which he took me home in. We got in the car and drove away. I don't remember the journey home.

100.



101. I left school and started work. I got an apprenticeship. I met my wife in 1975 and got married in 1980. We lived in Ibrox and my first daughter was born. We moved to Bridgeton in 1982, when she was a year old. We lived there for 23 years. I have three daughters and two sons. They are all grown up now. The oldest is 37 and the youngest is twenty. My own parents are now dead. I was a carpet fitter for thirty years and have suffered significant wear and tear in my spine and my knees need replaced.
102. Everything was fine until 2003, which is when I saw a programme on television about Quarriers. It was about one of the house fathers abusing children. A day or two later, I began to think about my records and if I had any at Quarriers.

103. I went down to Quarriers head office and explained who I was and they said they'd try to see if there were any records for me. I don't remember how long after that I went back and they gave me a copy of my records. I was unemployed at the time.
104. A little while later, I started a job in Epsom in Surrey. I had lost my job in 2003 due to redundancies. We had two years mortgage protection on the flat, but had to think of a solution. I had a bus license because I used to work for First Buses in Glasgow. I went down by myself. The plan was that if it worked out, we would sell up in Glasgow and moved down there. I had taken my records down with me.
105. After the third day, I decided to leave and went home during my lunch break with a sore head. Things had started to come back into my head. I packed my things up and I left. I got in my van and went onto the motorway and disappeared. Three police forces were looking for me. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Nobody could find me. I was driving up the motorway and staying in the van. I was missing for three days.
106. I was picked up by the police at a service station in Carlisle. I was in the back of my van. I had cleaned the van because I wanted it spotless. I had decided I was going to kill myself. All the memories had come back and I just couldn't bear it. It was too much. They took me to the police station but the cells were full, so I got taken to a psychiatric hospital in Carlisle. I told a psychiatrist and social worker there. It was like a door had opened and I couldn't put it back again.
107. My wife was called. I didn't want to talk to my wife at all because I felt like I had let her down. I felt ashamed and embarrassed. I was only there for a few hours and was taken to Penrith, where I saw a psychiatrist. He told me to see my doctor and to be with my family. My wife came down for me and took me back down to Glasgow. My wife knows everything now.
108. After that, I had a complete breakdown and kept going missing. My wife couldn't cope with me. She couldn't understand what was happening and neither could I. I have taken an overdose and tried to kill myself. I have been in the psychiatric

hospital in [REDACTED] four times. I once tried to kill myself with [REDACTED] but somebody found me. The police came and took me to hospital.

109. After I lost my job in 2003, I couldn't work again because I had a complete breakdown in 2003. When the two years mortgage protection were up on our flat, it was sold and we had to think of a solution. All we could think of was to move to Stranrear, where my wife grew up. We managed to sell the flat before the deadline and got a house in Stranraer. That was in 2005. My oldest daughter and son were away. My two younger daughters and my wife moved to Stranraer with me. My youngest son stayed in Glasgow because he was at college.
110. I have lived at my current address for thirteen years. I don't work just now. I have been told I will never work again. I couldn't bear to be in Stranraer when we first moved there. I kept coming back to Glasgow. I think it is because that is where I came back to my father after Quarriers. I don't like it in Stranrear but there is nothing I can do so I will stay there. It is a much quieter life.
111. I was a normal father as my kids were growing up. I would go to work and come home and look after the children, I had a normal life. I even worked as a carpet fitter at Quarriers a few times, but nothing bad was in my head. There was nothing there until 2003, when I saw the programme about Quarriers, and that's when it all came out.
112. Nobody knew about what had happened to me in Quarriers until I went missing in 2003. I spoke to [REDACTED] on the phone from a service station. I broke down crying and told him I was abused in Quarriers. That was the first time I ever told anybody. [REDACTED] When [REDACTED] found out, they didn't want to know me. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] stuck by me, but I don't think he really believed me. When all the abuse stories came out in the press, I think he believed me then.

Reporting of Abuse

113. When I had my breakdown in June 2003, the community police officers from London Road police station told me to see a lawyer. I went to see a lawyer in Glasgow in February 2004.

114.

 They didn't make me an offer because I had psychiatric problems.

Records

115. I approached Quarriers for my records in 2003 after seeing a programme on television about Quarriers. I got a copy of my records from Quarriers in 2003. There are some notes about who the visitors were and when they came to see you. There wasn't much in it. There were no medical records.

Impact of abuse

116. My children were still quite young in 2003. They have seen the police come to the door to get me after I have tried to kill myself. This must have had some impact on my wife and kids too.

117. I suffer from flashbacks. I don't sleep much and have sleep apnoea. I dream about Quarriers when I sleep. I have had three dreams about Quarriers in the last two weeks. Normally I dream about being in the cottage and the house parent from the first cottage is standing in front of me getting me into trouble and I am looking down at the floor.

118. I have an eating disorder. I am a compulsive eater, which I now know is because of what happened to me. I have mental health issues and have been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder and depression. I also have anxiety and suicidal tendencies.
119. I have made a few suicide attempts and have suicidal thoughts. This is because of Quarriers. All of my bad memories started to come out after I saw my records in 2003. This has been constant since 2003. I have Quarriers in my head every day. I think about it every day and can't cope with it. I very nearly didn't even come here today. I was going to go away and kill myself. I feel suicidal two or three times a week. The last time I went missing was a couple of years ago. I drove to a wooded area. I thought about the family and went home. The police were waiting for me when I went home. I've never been away from home for longer than the three days. She worries every time I walk out the door that I might not come back.
120. I never once went to any of my youngest daughter's school plays or parents' evenings because I can't be in crowded places. I get nervous. She has missed out and we can't get that time back. This didn't happen with any of my older children. It all happened after 2003. I don't like going to places with buses and trains.
121. I haven't worked since February 2003. I physically can't work and have been told I will never work again. I can't cope with things and get very stressed.
122. I don't trust people. Quarriers took my trust away. I only trust about two people and they are my wife and Janine from Wellbeing Scotland. I am wary of people.

Treatment and Support

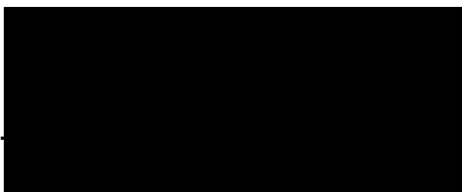
123. I phoned Open Secret, which is now Wellbeing Scotland, for help. I had nobody else to talk to.

- 124. I have seen psychiatrists and doctors, but they say then can't do anything for me and I will never get better. The last time I saw the psychiatrist was earlier this year and he said there is nothing he can do for me. My GP has been very good and I can see him whenever I need to.
- 125. I am on a lot of medication. I am currently on anti-psychotic medicine to keep me calm so I don't harm myself. I am also on anti-depressants and sleeping tablets.
- 126. I have a machine for my sleep apnoea, to stop me having a stroke or heart attack in my sleep. I stop breathing without this machine and I need it to keep me alive. I take other medication for my knees.

Final Thoughts

- 127. One of the reasons I wanted to go to court was to be listened to and believed, because we were never listened to in Quarriers. That is one of the reasons I stuck at it all these years with lawyers leaving and legal aid problems. I also wrote to Alex Salmond and Nicola Sturgeon to try and change the time bar law so that there is no time bar law for children that are being abused today.
- 128. 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.....

6/07/2018