

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

GDB

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is GDB My date of birth is 1962. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I lived with my mother my brother who is fifteen years older than me, my sister who is ten years older, and my sister who is two years younger than me.
3. I never knew my dad until I did an ancestry search in 2021. In Quarriers they had put my race down as Pakistani but I always disagreed with that. It wasn't until I was seventeen years old and I was having an argument with my mother that I learned the truth. She leaned out of the window and told me to fuck off back to Jamaica with my dad. She called me a black bastard I never questioned her further and she never told me anything else.
4. Just a few months ago I found out my dad died in 2020 from Covid – 19. His name was and he came from St Elizabeth in Jamaica. My half-brother, who I didn't know I had, was the person who contacted me about my dad. My half-brother told me that he knew about me when he was seventeen years old. My half-brother is also called A lot of my family had questioned why I was called and I think my mother was playing some kind of mind game. We surmised that

she had named me after my half-brother. That was a bit difficult to get my head around. None of my family were ever willing to talk about my ethnicity.

5. My mum was well respected by the criminal community in Glasgow. She was friends with a lot of the old time gangsters and a lot of people turned up at her funeral. I remember one old guy telling me what a great shoplifter she was.
6. Life before going into Quarriers was horrendous. My mum was an alcoholic. We spent most of our time wandering about Glasgow and we would be standing outside pubs. I don't ever remember having a bed to sleep in because we lived in squats because alcohol was her life. Most of the time we slept on the floor with a sheet, sometimes a mattress. At that time it was just me, my mum, and my wee sister.
7. Even before Quarriers I used to steal. It was the only way I could feed my little sister and look after her. We would wander the streets quite a lot. We got stopped by the police on a number of occasions but I told them lies, I told them we were just going up to our house.
8. My mum used to abuse substances and I used to see people in the house using drugs. I couldn't tell you which drugs, just whatever was the drug of the day. People were misusing anything that they had.
9. When I was living with my mum before I went to Quarriers for the first time, I could tell you everything about a man or a woman's body because we saw men and women having sex around us. That was from when I was a wee boy. My wee sister was too young, she didn't understand. I didn't properly understand to begin with but I understood more as I got older.
10. I remember one time we were living in a squat. Me and [REDACTED] were sleeping and my mum was drinking with two men and they had an argument. One of the men stabbed the other. The guy who did the stabbing came over to my mum and put the knife to her throat. He said that if she said anything he was going to kill her, me and

██████████ Then he disappeared. My mum got up, dressed us, and we disappeared out of there. I couldn't tell you if the guy who got stabbed lived or died.

11. The only time we slept in a bed was when we went to these places in Glasgow where they would de-louse you. You would get a bath and they would give you a change of clothes, something to eat, and a bed for the night. Then you would be booted out in the morning.
12. It was horrendous living in those squats. It was horrendous not knowing from one day to the next if you were going to get anything to eat unless you stole it. The people we were surrounded by were wicked people. None of them were nice. For me to say that Quarriers was a worse environment than that, that is something to say.
13. I was going to school for a wee while when I was with my mum. I remember I was in Abbotsford Place School. We used to get the school dinner tickets. One time the teacher took them off me on the Monday and that was us with nothing to eat for the week. I have no idea why she did that.
14. My sister and I were removed from my mum for short periods. Sometimes it was just an overnight stay and sometimes we were put in foster care. I don't remember any of the overnight stays but there was one foster placement I remember. The woman was horrible. I don't remember the man so much, I just remember the awful woman.
15. Where their house was, ██████████ I remember I would come home from school, do my homework, have dinner, and be in bed by 5.00 pm. She didn't want to see you in the evening at all. The social workers arrived one day and we got taken away from her, I don't know why.
16. I don't remember where we went after that but it was only for a short period of time and then we were handed back to my mum again, back to the squats of the Gorbals and Govanhill. We also stayed in ██████████ near Great Western Road. I can't remember all the other places.

17. Before I went into Quarriers you could say I was damaged. I never had a childhood, I probably knew more about what was going on than the adults in Quarriers. To give you an example, as a wee boy I never remember being read a bedtime story. We never sat as a family watching a movie. Everything that we had was always tainted with alcohol or strange men who were supposed to be our uncles.
18. My mum lived with a man called [REDACTED] he has been dead a long time. He tried to kill me. He was a Pakistani man and he wanted me to call him dad. I hated him, he was a wicked man. I never lost any sleep when I didn't have to see him again.
19. I had Tuberculosis when I was a child. When I came out of hospital my mum said she was going to sort herself out, she was going to stop drinking. It lasted weeks, sometimes days. Then it was back to drinking again and I would have to look after my little sister. It was me who was feeding her and making sure she was O.K. as best I could.
20. Eventually we were removed from my mum's care and placed in Quarriers. When we were finally removed from my mum's care we were given a medical examination and the doctor wrote that my sister and I were so emaciated that we were two weeks from death.

Quarriers' village 1967/8

21. I was about five or six years old when I went into Quarriers for the first time. I can't remember the exact time we went into Quarriers but we were only in there for a few months. [REDACTED] and I went into cottage 15. The social work department in Glasgow took us to Quarriers.
22. When you go in the front gates of Quarriers there was a main office building on the right hand side. It is still there now. I can't remember the name of the building but all the buildings had names.

Routine at Cottage 15

23. The woman in charge of Cottage 15 was Miss ^{QJD} [REDACTED]. She was an evil woman. That's the only word I can use to describe her. She wasn't nasty, she was evil. I don't remember much about Cottage 15 other than her abuse.
24. The only member of staff I remember was a woman called ^{EZN} [REDACTED]. She was like a cottage aunty, I can't remember her second name. She was nice. Because she was a cottage aunty she really had no say in anything. I don't know if it's the right word but she was like a skivvy. When Miss ^{QJD} [REDACTED] had a day off, ^{EZN} [REDACTED] was in charge for that day. It was always nice, it was always a good day but as soon as Miss ^{QJD} [REDACTED] came back you knew she was in the building.
25. There were some nice people at Quarriers like Ann Kerr and Ann Craig, who are both deceased, and Gavin Roy. Gavin Roy was in charge of the place called the hostel where you went during the last few months before leaving before leaving Quarriers.
26. Ann Kerr was a single woman. She was in charge of Cottage 40. She was probably the kindest woman I have met in my life. If you did anything wrong, her biggest punishment was that she sent kids to their bed, but then she felt so guilty she would go up and say to them that it was O.K. and they could come down. I saw her doing that because I would be round there playing with my friends. She always tried to help you better yourself. Ann Craig was very much the same.
27. You had to call the Cottage Aunties, "Aunty". You weren't allowed to call them by their name. I don't remember them being cruel, they were always very kind. It was the ones in charge who were the nasty bits of work.
28. I can't remember how many other children there were in Cottage 15. I can only remember two brothers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I remember them because they used to bully me.

First day

29. The first thing I remember Miss QJD telling us was "You will never see your mother or any of your family again. You are in here now and this is where you are staying." That was my introduction to Quarriers. I fought against it but you had no chance. She was a wicked woman.
30. On the first day she slapped, kicked and punched me. She tried to comb my hair straight but my hair was very curly when I was a child. It was more like an afro. Miss QJD dragged a comb through my hair to try and make it straight and my head would bleed and I would cry. But it didn't matter to her. I was nothing, I was in an orphanage.

Mornings and bedtime

31. I was in a room with others. I know the two brothers were in there. I think there may have been five boys in the room, there were at least four. I can't remember the names of the other boys.
32. Before you went to bed Miss QJD would make you bend over and you were skelped with a wooden spoon across the bum and then sent to bed. That was her routine, it wasn't because you had done anything.
33. When I went arrived at Quarriers the first night, I was just given pyjamas and told to get to sleep. Then I would wet the bed and get battered.

Mealtimes/Food

34. We arrived at Cottage 15 late at night so the next day she tried to feed us something. I can't remember what it was but I wouldn't eat it. She tried to force feed me but I was being sick. She tried to force the food and the sick back into my mouth. I wouldn't eat it so she gave me the hiding of my life.

35. If you still wouldn't eat your food Miss QJD [REDACTED] would serve up the same meal, cold, the next day. You could get cold mince and tatties the next day for breakfast. That was a regular thing. That didn't just happen to me, I saw that happening to other children.

Washing/bathing

36. There wasn't any bath or delousing when you arrived at Quarriers.

Clothing/uniform

37. I arrived at Quarriers at night so I was just given pyjamas. The next day I was kitted out with all my clothes. They had a drapery. You were given a set of school clothes and a set of play clothes. You got pants and vests too.

School

38. I was going to school at Cottage 15. They got mine and [REDACTED] birth dates mixed up. They didn't sort that out until the second time I went to Quarriers. I don't really remember anything about school or if I was in the wrong year at that time.

Leisure time

39. I can't remember if we went out to play or if we did anything. All I can really remember is how cruel the whole experience at Cottage 15 was. I can remember [REDACTED] [REDACTED] one of my friends from Quarriers, being there from a very young age. He went into Quarriers when he was about four or five years old. We kept in touch after we left Quarriers, we have never lost touch.
40. There were toys around. I remember there was a great big box of Lego. Although we had our own lockers I don't remember ever getting toys of my own out of my locker to play with.

Chores

41. I don't remember doing any chores but it was normal to do chores. I think everyone had chores to do but I don't remember what my chores were at that age. Being made to do something would actually be a good thing because you would be out of Miss QJD firing line.

Religious instruction

42. We always went to church and I think we did have to say prayers. You had to say a prayer at night after you had been hit with the wooden spoon, then you were carted off to your bed.

Birthdays and Christmas

43. I don't remember them celebrating my birthday at Cottage 15. I must have been at Cottage 15 over Christmas. I know at Christmas we would go to the big service at the church and you got a present. That happened every year at all the cottages. All the boys and girls sat there and Santa would come round and give you a gift and you would go back to your cottage with your present, but I don't specifically remember it at Cottage 15. I don't remember if we were allowed to keep our presents.

Visits

44. When my mum visited, Miss QJD said we could call her Aunty. My mum only came to visit me once at Cottage 15. She was smelling of drink. Miss QJD put in my records that my mum came in the morning and was smelling of alcohol. She took and I out and never returned us on time. My mum never brought us back until about 9.00 pm. She took us to somewhere in Glasgow and she went drinking with her pals. When my mum brought us back late, instead of challenging my mum about it, I got battered by Miss QJD after my mum went away. I got blamed for something out of my control. I don't remember getting beaten.

45. The only other visitors I had in Cottage 15 were the social workers. I had to speak to them in a wee room in the cottage. It wasn't out of earshot of Miss QJD [REDACTED]
46. Although [REDACTED] was in the same cottage as me she had her own friends. There wasn't a particular amount of time for us to have contact with one another. [REDACTED] had a good time at Quarriers. She doesn't remember a lot of the stuff with my mum.

Running away

47. I didn't try to run away from Cottage 15, I was too young. If I could have I would have but I had nowhere I could run to.

Bed Wetting

48. I was wetting the bed every night in Cottage 15. I got battered every time by Miss QJD [REDACTED] because I was causing extra work. She would do this in front of other people in the Cottage. You got battered and she didn't care who saw it. I didn't get to have a bath if I wet the bed, I was just told to have a wash. I don't know if other children wet the bed and if she did that to them too, I have just blanked out so much of my time in Cottage 15. To me Cottage 15 was so horrendous I couldn't tell you any time when I had a nice meal or anything beyond the memory of being abused. I can't remember any one day when I had a nice time in Cottage 15.
49. Children can be cruel but it's worse when adults do things to you. It's not nice to have a child laughing at you for wetting the bed but it's worse when an adult does it.

Abuse at Cottage 15

50. Miss QJD [REDACTED] was quite happy to tell you every morning, "Nobody loves you, you're not good enough to be loved, that's why you're here." or, "If you were good enough, you wouldn't be here." or, "You must have done something really wrong to be here." She said those kind of things every day.

51. You weren't allowed to talk unless she said you could talk. It was more or less a silent place. Even now thinking back I can't understand why there were so many single women in charge at Quarriers. It's not that they didn't have any experience of life, they just didn't have any experience of children.
52. When she gave me a hiding, Miss QJD would punch, kick, and slap me. The whole time I was in Cottage 15 that's all I can remember. Everything was tainted with a beating, for whatever reason. I couldn't tell you her reasons but I know that she was a wicked woman. I do know that people have brought up her name since she died, she has been dead a really long time.
53. I always got a beating in the morning and I always got a beating at night. Before going to school she would give us a big spoon of this medicine. After you took it you got a skelp around the ear. It wasn't a wee slap, it was a proper whack across the head. That was your departure for school.
54. At night I got beaten with a wooden spoon. I think we all got that. I remember she broke one of her favourite wooden spoons over a boy's head. She hit him so hard that the spoon snapped. She didn't reflect on what she had done, she just told him to get to bed.
55. I don't remember EZN ever being around when Miss QJD was beating us. Maybe she was, but I don't remember. I don't remember seeing other children being beaten, but I know it happened. I have spoken to people who were in Cottage 15. I probably don't remember it happening to other children because I would have been too busy hoping it wasn't me next in the firing line.
56. What I remember about Miss QJD is that she didn't need a reason to hit someone. I think it would happen if she had just had a bad day. If she read something in the newspaper that she didn't like someone was going to get a battering. You didn't need to have done something wrong. If she was in a bad mood and you were within arms-reach, you were getting hit.

57. Living in Cottage 15 was one of the worst experiences of my life. It was so bad, I wished I was back with my mother. I don't remember one nice thing about Cottage 15. I can't stress enough what an evil woman Miss ^{QJD} was. I have met other former residents of Cottage 15 and they have all said the same.

Reporting of abuse at Cottage 15

58. When I got beaten by Miss ^{QJD} there would be marks left on my skin. I showed these marks to the social workers but they just said I must have got them playing. Your reports were just dismissed.
59. There were people who loved Quarriers. In Quarriers, if you were in a good cottage it was good. If you were in a horrible cottage, the people running Quarriers didn't want to know. ^{GDO} was at Quarriers. ^{QAA} and Doctor Minto were the ^{SNR} at Quarriers. There was also a Mr Davidson but I don't remember what his job was other than being one of the head people. There were a couple of other people but I can't remember their names.

Leaving Cottage 15

60. I don't remember any discussion or build up about to going back to my mother. The social workers from Glasgow just turned up one day and told us we were going back to our mum. I don't remember anything being said about it even the day before we left.

Life with mother after Cottage 15

61. I was relieved to be leaving Cottage 15. I wasn't just going to be seeing my mum, I would get to see all of my cousins and other members of my family again. However it was more or less a mirror image of life before with my mum. It was back to standing

outside the Bonnington Bar. She would go in one door and go out another door. We would be stood at the door she had gone in. Then the landlord would come to shut the doors at closing time and tell us that my mum had left hours before.

62. Me and my wee sister would then go wandering around the Gorbals. Then we would go back to the squat, hoping that my mum was going to turn up. Sometimes it was two or three days later that she would turn up. That's why I had to go and steal food so that we could eat. Then my mum would come back and ask us if we were alright and we were supposed to be O.K. with that. It was the same as it was before with her friends too, all those horrible people.
63. My mum didn't have a house of her own at this point, she was staying in a squat. Our squat was in Govanhill Street in Govanhill. My mum just put the door in. We used to get laughed at by people because we had no windows.
64. I think I was going to Victoria school in Govanhill but it wasn't for any length of time, I wasn't going regularly, I wasn't going every day. Before I went into Quarriers I don't remember being at any school regularly.
65. They did have Children's Panels and things. They sent people from the school board round to see my mum about our absences. My mum would say that the school was lying. She was stinking of drink but the school board people were scared of her. They knew the friends that my mum had so they weren't about to argue with her.
66. One thing I do remember was when it was bitterly cold and we were in a close with my mum because we had nowhere to go. There was snow on the ground up to my knees. We were in the close on the second floor of a tenement and my sister and I were crying. A woman came out of her house and said to my mum, "You ought to be ashamed of yourself." She ushered me and my sister into the house and she put us in a bed together. I couldn't tell you what the woman's name was. The next morning she fed us and my mum came back for us. She again told my mother that she should be ashamed of herself and that she was going to report my mum to the police. My mum

just took us and away we went but I reckon that if that woman hadn't taken us in my sister and I would have frozen to death.

67. I was sexually abused in-between my stays in Quarriers. I was with my mum and some other men were in the house. My mum was with one of the men and the other man interfered with me. I don't know his name but I remember what he looked like and how he smelled. He was white and had stubble. He had yellow smoker's fingers. He smelled of cigarettes, and booze. He had a dirty smell, he didn't smell like he was particularly clean. He was wearing a flat cap and he had long-ish hair, just above the collar line.
68. He was drawing pictures of a rocket. It was just before the moon landing. It was really a penis but he was disguising it as a rocket. After he had abused me he crawled in beside me and said to me that if I said anything he was going to kill me and my mum so I never said anything. The only good thing was that he wasn't interested in my little sister.
69. The next day when the men went away I couldn't walk. That's when I remember the police getting involved. I am 59 now and I can still remember it like it was yesterday. I still wake up at night and for a long period of time I wet the bed.
70. I didn't know who to speak to about it. There was no mention of this in my Glasgow City Council records but I know the police were involved in it. I don't know if the man went to jail or what.
71. I don't remember the social workers keeping tabs on us when we were back with my mum. The social workers only ever turned up when the police were involved. It was quite a regular thing that the police would be at whatever squat we were in or wherever we might be. A fight would break out or something and the police would turn up. Me and my sister were quite well known to the police in the Gorbals and Govanhill areas of Glasgow. We were street urchins, we were child tramps. If we went to certain areas of Glasgow people in the street would question why we were there, because they didn't want tramps there. They would threaten to phone the police.

72. I remember being removed from my mum for the final time. We were taken from a house that the police raided. There was prostitution and drinking going on. I think my mum got arrested. The police found us in a wee room and we were put in the back of a car and taken away to Quarriers. The police didn't let us say goodbye to my mum, they weren't nice about it. The courts said that we weren't to be returned to our mother's care.

Quarriers Village Cottage 39, 1969 to 1978

73. I would have been around six or seven years of age when [REDACTED] and I were taken to Quarriers the second time. We arrived at Quarriers in the early hours of the morning, and were met by [REDACTED] QCL She was friendly at first but she changed as soon as the social workers went away.
74. [REDACTED] QAA was [REDACTED] SNR when I first went in. He came across as so nice to anyone who came to Quarriers like football players and pop stars but he wasn't slow in giving you a slap about the head or a good kicking. It didn't faze him.
75. Doctor Minto was the [REDACTED] SNR but you didn't really have any interaction with him so I don't know if they had different roles. Doctor Minto was actually O.K. You would always see him in church when they had celebrities like Isla St Clair and Cliff Richard visiting and singing in the church. I had to listen to them when I wanted to be outside playing with my mates.
76. [REDACTED] QCL told me that I was to call her mum. I told her she was not my mum and that was me on the start of a slippery slope with her. If you said you didn't want to call her mum she would say, "That's fine." but the next morning you would be waiting for your breakfast and there would be nothing. You would ask, "Where's my breakfast?" and she would say, "Can you hear someone talking?" It was only if you said, "Mum can I have some breakfast?" that she would answer you.

77. My friend [REDACTED] was still there the second time I went back into Quarriers. He would come round asking if was coming out to play. QCL [REDACTED] would shout on me but it was only if I said, "Yes mum?" that she would tell me [REDACTED] was there. If I just said "Yes?" she wouldn't respond. Although she would say you didn't have to call her mum, if you called her Auntie QCL [REDACTED] she would say how dare you. She would say that she wasn't your aunty. It was her way of controlling you.

Routine at Cottage 39

78. I can remember that you went in the front door of Cottage 39 and to the right was QCL [REDACTED]'s sitting room. Next to that was the playroom. To the left hand side of that was a wee door to what we called the sitting room because there was a television there. Then there was another door that lead to the kitchen.
79. On the left hand side of the kitchen was a big long table where we all sat. In the corner was the old fashioned aluminium milk churns. Worktops were on the left hand side and the cooker was on the right hand side.
80. Then there was another door that lead into a long walkway and at the end there was a toilet. On the left hand side of the walkway was the shower and baths. There was a sort of shed with a concrete floor and a Belfast sink. There was a door from that which lead out into a courtyard and after that it was fields.
81. Upstairs at Cottage 39 you came round the stairs and there was QCL [REDACTED]'s room. Then to the right of that was the girls' room. You went round to the right again and there was another girls' room, then round to the right again and there were two boys' rooms. There was also another wee room where visitors stayed when they came. Next to that was the upstairs bathroom.
82. I can't remember everyone who stayed in Cottage 39, maybe 12 or 14 children. There are only four people I can remember apart from my sister. The others were younger

than me but not that much younger. I remember [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], and [REDACTED]

83. There were staff at Cottage 39. There was a woman called Theresa, I can't remember her second name. There was an Aunty June Culzean, she was lovely, and she used to make us laugh. She had funny wee sayings, she would say, "Jesus, Joany, Macaroni." She had two sons and I got on well with her boys. I think June is dead now. She lived in Bridge of Weir. When I was older she took me to stay the night at her house. I couldn't believe it, I was not staying in Quarriers for a night and I was doing the things that her boys were doing, just silly childish boys things that I would never have been allowed to do in Quarriers.

First day

84. When I arrived at Quarriers the second time I didn't have any pants, just a pair of trousers. I had one boy's shoe and one girl's shoe because that's how we lived with my mum.

Mornings and bedtime

85. I think in my room there were four of us. I can't remember what time we got up but I remember the first thing I had to do was change my bed and pyjamas, but if I hadn't wet the bed my routine would be to make my bed, fold my pyjamas up and put them on my chair. Then I would put on my school clothes and go downstairs for breakfast.
86. I think you always had to say a prayer in the morning but I couldn't tell you if it was the Lord's Prayer. Then you would put on your coat and go off to school. You came back at lunchtime for your lunch, then went back in the afternoon to school, and came home at night. When you came home at night you would get changed into what were called your play clothes. You would have your dinner, then schoolwork, and then bed.
87. At night, up until I was twelve years old, we had to wash our socks and pants. You had to then take them to her to be inspected. If they weren't clean enough to her standards

then you were battered. You would be sent back crying to wash them again and then go in and have them inspected again. Then you would be sent to your bed. That was just one of her routines.

88. If you got caught talking in bed it wasn't unusual to be taken from your bed, be taken downstairs, with no socks or shoes on, and be left standing in the shed with the concrete floor. You would be left there freezing until she decided that you had been there long enough, then you would be taken back to your bed.

Mealtimes/Food

89. On my first day, ^{QCL} [REDACTED] cooked us spaghetti. I had been living like a tramp with my mum and there were so many things I didn't know about. I had never seen things like radiators before going to Quarriers, I had only been used to seeing a coal fire. I didn't know what showers were. The first meal she gave us was tinned spaghetti and I couldn't eat it. Even as an adult it makes me gag. She was forcing me to eat it and I was throwing up at the same time. That was followed by a leathering while she was shouting, "How dare you refuse to eat the food I have cooked."
90. Apart from tripe I don't think the meals were too bad. There are some things that I am still not keen on, like chocolate cake. She would make chocolate cake with chocolate custard. That was disgusting to me and I would throw up and she knew that. I would still get that served to me because everyone else was getting it. I would eat it and as soon as it hit my stomach it was coming back up again. She would get Neapolitan ice cream and give me the chocolate bit. As soon as I ate it I would throw up. I don't know if she was getting a kick out of it or what.
91. In Quarriers we ate in accordance with the seasons so in the summer months we had salads and roll mop herring. You might get boiled potatoes and a wee bit of meat like ham but in summer it always came with salad. They had their own farm and you ate what was produced in season, which was good. I couldn't really moan about the food, apart from tripe. I more or less ate what was put in front of me.

Washing/bathing

92. We had showers and baths. There were no problems in the baths or showers, you could lock the door although it was one of those locks that could be opened from the outside by putting something in the slot, if you were messing about. When I was younger, I don't think we got a shower every day. When you got to your teenage years they encouraged you to have a shower in the evening. When I went to military school in Wales, you had a shower every morning before the school day started and every night.

Clothing/uniform

93. It was the same as before, you went to the drapery and got issued with pants, socks, a set of school clothes, and a set of play clothes.

School

94. Because they mixed up my date of birth with [REDACTED] I was in the wrong year. When they realised, I just got put straight from Primary six to Secondary one. I just missed out Primary seven. Because I missed a year I was behind by the time I got to secondary school. I don't remember much about school at Quarriers.

Schooling at The Training Ship Indefatigable, Anglesey, Wales, 1975 to 1976

95. I went to school at Quarriers to begin with and then I went to school in Wales in 1977 and 1978. I left there when I was fifteen and a half. The Training Ship Indefatigable was not actually a ship, it was a training school for boys intending to join the Royal Navy or the British Merchant Navy and it was run like a boarding school. There were a couple of other boys from Quarriers who had been there. They said it was good and

if I got the chance I should go there. I think I was able to go because my grades were good enough.

96. I didn't get any encouragement to go to Wales from the staff at Quarriers. That opportunity was a way of getting out of Quarriers. It might have been daunting for the first week or two but after that I settled in.
97. I was still classed as a Quarriers person, they kept a bed for me at Quarriers. During the school breaks I went back to Quarriers. I can't remember how long we got for our holidays but the holidays were different from schools in Scotland, because it was run like a boarding school. I know that my friends would go back to school and I had another fortnight of walking around Quarriers with nothing to do because the terms were different.
98. I loved it in Wales. The school was run by the military and it was very disciplined. The curriculum was very different from school in Scotland. I learned to march, to press my uniform, to sew, how to clean, how to clean your shoes, how to make your bed, and make a bed block. It didn't matter if you came from a great home or a broken home, everyone was treated the same. I learned a lot of different skills.
99. The school day started by having a shower in the morning, then you would have breakfast, then P.E., and then you would go to your classes. At night you had study classes. You didn't have a lot of free time in the school. You were in your dormitory for 9.00 pm and lights out was 10.00 pm.
100. We had to wear military uniform in school in Wales. If you went in to the local town you always stood out. They always knew where you were from.
101. We were all treated the same. If one of us got into trouble, we were all in trouble. You learned different things that would stand you in good stead if you went into the military. Things like Morse code, flags, sea survival, all sorts of things. I did gain qualifications in Wales.

102. There was no abuse at the Indefatigable school as far as I could see. There was the standard stuff that if you did something wrong you would be marched in to the Captain's office and given a punishment.
103. The only thing that upset me was having to come back to Quarriers at the end of term, back to Cottage 39. I hated it in Quarriers. When I went to school in Wales things changed at Quarriers. That's when my niece got fostered and then adopted when she was six years old.
104. [REDACTED] and I have birthdays that are only a few months apart. His birthday was in [REDACTED] and mine was in [REDACTED] in the same school year. When [REDACTED] came to leave school I was kept on. I asked why I was being kept on when [REDACTED] was allowed to leave but there was no answer. I can only surmise that it was because they had got my date of birth wrong. I don't remember whether I had to go back to school in Quarriers after I had been to Wales.

Chores

105. You did chores every day in Cottage 39. There was a rota on the wall. One week you would be washing dishes. Someone would dry them, and someone would put the dishes away. The next time you could be washing pots and pans, or you might be made to polish the shoes, do hoovering, or peel potatoes. You went with a barrow to the potato store and took them back to the cottage. There was a machine to help you peel the potatoes.
106. QCL [REDACTED] would inspect your work. Sometimes with kids being kids if they found a bit of dirt on their plate, rather than handing it back they would say, "This plate's still dirty." Depending on her mood, QCL [REDACTED] would sometimes make you wash all the dishes again, not just the dirty one.
107. QCL [REDACTED] used to punish me by getting me to sweep up all the pine needles from the pine tree in the back yard. I would do that, put them into a bag, and then go and play with my pals. When I came in she said, "I thought I told you to clean those

pine needles up?" I told her I had and she would call me a liar and point to the pine needles on the ground. Then she would give me a slap but it was the wind that had blown more pine needles off the trees. I can only assume that she got some kind of enjoyment out of those situations.

Leisure time

108. I started boxing when I was ten years old. I had got into a fight and the guy who ran the boxing said that if I wanted to fight I should start boxing. I got really good and represented [REDACTED] when I was [REDACTED] before I went to Wales.
109. [REDACTED] and I were in the boxing squad together, we were in the swimming team as well. I enjoyed swimming [REDACTED], around the same age. [REDACTED] and I were a bit like brothers and we are still in contact. We had trips away for boxing and swimming. Sometimes we went to Turnberry for a training weekend. We also went to the Commonwealth pool in Edinburgh.
110. As well as the outdoor sports there were things that we could do in Cottage 39, like board games, but I would usually be along at the boxing squad. I started helping on the milk round at 6.00 am which was great for my training.
111. One winter I was down at the River Gryffe. I was playing and it was icy. The river was frozen. I was being stupid and I was going to walk across the ice from one bank to another. [REDACTED] told me not to but I did and I fell through the thin ice. Although I could swim I couldn't get my bearings. [REDACTED] ran down the bank and pulled me out before I got to the weir, otherwise I would have been dead.
112. [REDACTED] took me back to his cottage and his cottage mother gave me a drink, took away my wet clothes, put a blanket round me and gave me a bit of comfort. She then took me back to my cottage and as soon as she went away I got battered by QCL [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I had nearly died but instead of any reprimand telling me it was a stupid

thing to do, I got battered senseless. After that I was kept in the house and put to my bed.

113. I had marks all over my face from where she had slapped me. Because I wasn't allowed out of the cottage, I couldn't report that incident. I don't know if she wouldn't let me out of the house to stop me going back to the frozen river or because I was black and blue and it would have been obvious to my friends that I had been beaten.
114. In the summer they had a disco at Quarriers. You were told to come home for 10.00 pm. I don't know any teenager that would be back on time, but with [REDACTED] she locked the door at 10.00 pm. You had to ring the bell and she would come down and say that she had been in bed asleep. Then you would get a beating, just for doing what teenagers do.
115. Looking back, there were good experiences at Quarriers. If I hadn't gone into Quarriers I would never have gone canoeing in most of the lochs in Scotland, I wouldn't have gone sailing, abseiling, and I probably would never have climbed Ben Nevis. There was trampolining and a chess club too. I was too young for those activities when I was in Cottage 15.
116. If I had stayed in Glasgow I would never have done those things, and I would probably never have boxed [REDACTED] but it's all tainted. The cruelty took away all the enjoyment.

Religious instruction

117. They had a church at Quarriers. It was a Protestant church. I was told that I was raised a Protestant before going into Quarriers but there was no religion in my mum's house.
118. We went to church on Sunday morning for the 11.00 am service. Then we would go back to the cottages for lunch and then we went back to church for the 6.00 pm service. We also went to church on a Wednesday night. We also had bible study classes on Wednesday and they were compulsory in Cottage 39.

119. When I had my first girlfriend, QCL [REDACTED] said that was wrong, it was against the Lord. Some of my friends had girlfriends but she just said that they were bad boys. She said that I would be letting the devil in. The things that are common between boys and girls today did not happen in my teenage years. If you had a girlfriend you went for a walk together and if you were lucky, you might get a kiss at the end of the night but that was as far as it went. That was all frowned upon. It was part of the Victorian aspect of the place, that boys and girls should not play together.
120. I actually asked GDO [REDACTED] once if he could show me in the bible where it said that it was O.K. to abuse children. He just walked away from me because it doesn't say that anywhere in the bible. I know that in Psalms it says, "Spare the rod and spoil the child." but it doesn't mean that you should beat children, it means that discipline is good in the right circumstances.
121. They would always just twist the bible to suit their needs. That's the reason they got away with so much because they came across as these lovely Christian people. In actual fact, they weren't like that at all. Some of them were good people, there were some that were nice, but not many.

Trips/Holidays

122. We used to get holidays every year. We might go to Turnberry, Girvan, or Arbroath.
123. One year when I think I was twelve or thirteen years old we went to Turnberry. The night before we went on holiday, I was talking in bed like any child before they went on holiday because I was so excited. The whole of the two week holiday, I was kept in. All my friends and everyone else were all out playing and I was kept in the house.
124. We used to get winter holidays to Girvan and I loved swimming, no matter what time of year. I loved going to Girvan, I loved swimming in the sea or a river rather than a pool. I would sit in the sea with my back against the sea wall and let the waves crash

over me. Some people would say to me that it was dangerous but I loved being in the water. I would go to the arcades to play the machines, I would get to do normal things.

125. When I could get away from ^{QCL} [REDACTED] that brought a bit of normality to my life but when you went back to her vicinity, she had all these restrictions, things you weren't allowed to do.

Birthdays and Christmas

126. I can only remember my birthday being celebrated once at Cottage 39. I boxed for [REDACTED] I was a good boxer, good enough to have turned professional. I remember coming up to my thirteenth birthday, ^{QCL} [REDACTED] built me up to expect a great present. She said it was a special birthday and when you turn thirteen, you always get something really good. She said it was going to be a great day. I was thinking I was going to get a nice pair of boxing boots or boxing shorts, something like that. Although I swam [REDACTED] as well, boxing was really my life. It is the only sport I have loved my whole life. She kept building me up and I was convinced I was going to get something for my boxing, maybe a pair of boxing gloves.
127. I was so excited on my thirteenth birthday and I remember coming down and the other kids all sang happy birthday. I was given a parcel and a card. What she had got me was a pink tie for wearing to church on Sunday. I actually said to her, "Is that it?" She asked what I meant and I said that she had told me I was getting something special. She said, "That's enough."
128. At Christmas time in Cottage 39, one year we decided we were all going to stay awake and see if we could see Santa. Everyone fell asleep apart from me. I heard rustling and I saw ^{QCL} [REDACTED] She saw me looking as she put out the toys but she didn't beat me, she just told me to go back to sleep. The next day I went downstairs and there were big bags of toys everywhere but I got a bag of coal. She said, "That's what bad boys get when they don't go to sleep." I got my presents two days after Boxing Day, after everyone else had had theirs for days.

129. A lot of the presents were donations from people. I remember one year I got an Action Man with one leg, but you were happy to get something and before I went into Quarriers I never had any gifts anyway. You were allowed to keep your Christmas presents. You had a wee locker you could keep stuff in but most of the time toys all went into the playroom and you could play with whatever you wanted.
130. Christmas was not too bad. You would go to the church service and you always got a present from Santa. They always put on a play. Your Christmas dinner was always good. They had turkey and Christmas pudding with a sixpence in it. You hoped you were going to be the one to get the sixpence.
131. Although Christmas was good it would be tainted. If you were making too much noise, QCL [REDACTED] would batter you for that. My experience of Quarriers was that if there was something good, it was always tainted.

Family contact

132. Initially [REDACTED] and I were separated when we went to Quarriers the second time but we raised such a stink about it that they did put her into Cottage 39 with me after just a few days. I complained to QCL [REDACTED] about being separated and I don't know but maybe GDO [REDACTED] got involved. I don't think they expected me to make a fuss about it. Eventually [REDACTED] got moved into Cottage 39.
133. Although I was in the same cottage as my sister [REDACTED] we never spent much time together. [REDACTED] had her own friends and she was in the Brownies then the Girl's Brigade.
134. My niece [REDACTED] and nephew [REDACTED] were also in Quarriers with us, when we were at Cottage 39. They were the children of my elder sister [REDACTED] They were in the baby home. We weren't told they were coming to Quarriers, it was by pure fluke that [REDACTED] saw them. We went to see them in the baby home and when they were old enough, they were put in Cottage 39 with us.

135. [REDACTED] was adopted when she was six years old. We were told we were still going to get contact with [REDACTED] but Quarriers soon put a stop to that. I couldn't tell you where she is now or even if she is still alive.
136. My older sister did come to see me and [REDACTED] but I was at the age where I would rather be playing with my friends. When she arrived I would go and play with my pal [REDACTED] in the woods. She mainly spent time with my wee sister. By that time I had basically given up on my family, I couldn't be bothered with them.
137. I have questioned my older sister as to where she was when I was in that horrible place but given that my niece and nephew were also in Quarriers, I don't think she was any better than my mum.
138. My friend [REDACTED] had two brothers and I think three sisters in Quarriers but they were in separate cottages. It was not uncommon for them to separate siblings at Quarriers. I don't know why they did it, there was no reason to do it. Then they would try to make kids believe that they weren't related to one another.

Visits

139. I had to call [REDACTED] "Mum". I asked why I had to call her mum and she said it was because I didn't have one. When my mum came to visit in Cottage 39 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] stayed out of the way and told me I could call her Aunty [REDACTED] If I had told my mum that [REDACTED] slapped me if I didn't call her mum then my mum would have been in jail. She would have battered [REDACTED]. My mum wasn't a nice person, she was violent.
140. When I was in Cottage 39 I remember the social workers coming to take us away. They were giving my mum a house in Croftfoot in Glasgow. The social workers took us to my mum and she showed us around this house. The social workers said it was up to us if we wanted to stay in Quarriers or if we wanted to be returned to our mum. To be clear, the choice was either we both went back to my mother or neither of us did. I had to make the decision that day, I didn't get a few days to think about it.

141. I asked my mum if she was going to stop drinking. She said she was trying. I said to my wee sister that at Quarriers we had food, a roof over our heads, and beds to sleep in. I said I was going to stay where I was at Quarriers. That was when I was fifteen years old and I knew it wouldn't be long before I would be leaving Quarriers anyway and going out into the big bad world. Even as much as I hated Quarriers, I didn't want to go back to that life I had with my mother.
142. It was a tough decision to put onto a fifteen year old. My sister and I recently discussed that decision and she asked me if I thought that I had done the right thing. I told her I felt it was more of the right thing for her. I hate to think of the life my sister would have lived if she had been returned to my mother's care.

Healthcare

143. They had their own hospital at Quarriers but I don't remember ever going to see a doctor. I do remember going to the dentist. Mr Steel was the dentist. He was a bit of work. He used to take your teeth out because they got paid for extractions at that time. This is despite the fact that we brushed our teeth at Quarriers in the morning, at night, and at lunchtime.
144. I had a lot of my teeth taken out by Mr Steel. Most times if I went to him with a toothache, he would remove the tooth. There were a lot of kids who got their teeth taken out when they didn't need to have them removed.
145. In later life, my dentist told me that my teeth had been removed far too early and she couldn't see anything from examining my gums and my jaw to justify it. Mr Steel is dead now so he got away with it and there is nothing I can do about it now.
146. One winter we made a slide and I went sliding down it and I hit the bottom of my back, my coxycs. I really hurt my back and I could hardly walk. QCL just said I was at it. They said there was nothing wrong with me. I'm 59 now and I've had four operations on my back. I don't know if it's to do with that incident.

147. They never took you to an outside hospital. I have one collar bone that sits higher than the other because I came off a bike once. I did go to the Elise hospital in Quarriers but they just put a bandage on it where I split the skin and said I would be fine. I have been to the hospital since then and was told it should have been reset at the time.
148. The only time they took me to a hospital out-with Quarriers was when we were in Turnberry. I came off a bike and a stone went into my knee. They couldn't get it out so I had to go to hospital to get the stone out. I'm not sure which hospital we went to, maybe Girvan. I've still got a big dent in my knee from when it happened.

Running away

149. I tried to run away a few times but I either got caught by the police or I got too hungry and I knew there was free food in the cottage. One time when I was boxing in the Kelvin Hall I got changed after the match and I was halfway down the road before the police caught me and took me back. The police didn't ask me why I had ran away.
150. A lot of children tried to run away from Quarriers but back then Quarriers was portrayed as a good Christian place where children were brought up well. The surroundings were great to grow up in but it was always tainted by the cruelty. I can't remember a single day when someone wasn't putting me down.
151. When I got taken back to Cottage 39^{QCL} would ask me if I was O.K. and things. Then as soon as the people who brought me back went away I would get a beating because I had run away.

Bed Wetting

152. I wet the bed just about every night. They tried using the Contraption with me. I don't remember the Contraption in Cottage 15, just in Cottage 39. The Contraption was a rubber sheet with a bell and the bell would ring if you started to wet the bed and you were supposed to wake up with the noise but I never heard it.

153. QCL [REDACTED] would come and wake me up and moan that she couldn't believe I hadn't woken up with the bell. She used to make me get up and go to the toilet, even if I said I didn't need a pee she would tell me to stand there until I had gone. I would squeeze a wee drop out but the next morning I would get up and find that I had still pee'd the bed. I would have to wash the sheet and hang it out on the clothesline. Everyone would see it and know that I had wet the bed. It was like putting a big sign up.
154. They never looked into the reason why I was wetting the bed. I don't remember being asked in Quarriers about our lives before going into Quarriers. They didn't care why these things were happening, they didn't want to know why these things were happening.
155. QCL [REDACTED] used to call me, "Pishy." and she encouraged the others in the house to refer to me in that way.

Abuse at cottage 39

156. If you got sent to see QAA [REDACTED] you were not going into his office to get a lollipop. You knew you were going to get a hiding. He wasn't a nice person. I was sent to see QAA [REDACTED] three times and one of the times he wasn't in so I went back but QCL [REDACTED] QCL [REDACTED] said, "You'll be going to see QAA [REDACTED] tomorrow. The two times I was in his office a got a hiding. You would be punched, kicked, or slapped.
157. They didn't use any implements to hit you, just their hands and their feet. If they hit you with their hands or their feet they could blame it on you fighting with other children. If they hit you with something, that would leave a different shaped mark. They weren't silly.
158. I was beaten by GDO [REDACTED] If you walked on the grass he would chase you and when he caught you he would give you a hiding in the open air. These people didn't care.

They didn't take you somewhere private and beat you, they would give you a hiding in front of everyone. Quarriers was totally alienated.

159. People used to come to Quarriers looking to adopt children. We would be warned beforehand that there were people coming to look at the children but we were to stay out of the way, they didn't want us. We would hang about at the gate and as these people came in we would ask them for sweets. Some people were nice and gave us sweets. When these visitors left you would get chased from whoever was in the office at the time and if you got caught you would get leathered. That was normally by the person's hand or fist, not a belt. QCL [REDACTED] would also say things like, "You stay out of the way, these people don't want to see you. Who would want to adopt you?" It was like they were trying to run it along Victorian lines, as though children should be kept out of the way.
160. I think the mental abuse from QCL [REDACTED] was worse than the physical abuse. You could cope with the physical beatings. If she asked you how to spell something and you couldn't, she would laugh and make fun of you. She would know how to spell the word and would tell you how stupid you were as she spelled it. I have spoken to a few people and they have said the same kind of things about her.
161. QCL [REDACTED] used to beat me regularly. She would punch and kick you or use anything that she had in her hands. It was the same across the board, everyone got the same although she did have favourites.
162. A lot of times it could just be if she was in a bad mood. I think she must have had some kind of split personality. She sat at the top of our table and she normally ate what we ate. She could be sitting reading her paper and laughing but we weren't allowed to talk except to say, "Could you please pass me the salt?" and, "Thank you." But if you did happen to speak, even if she was sitting laughing at her paper, you would be hit. She would hit you across the back of the head or the face. Then she would go back to what she was doing. She could change instantly. I saw her doing that to other children.

163. There were lots of chestnut trees in Quarriers and we would climb up to get the best chestnuts to make conkers. We used to have to sneak them into the house. If you got caught with them you would get battered. You were getting hit for just trying to play an innocent childhood game.
164. It wasn't unusual for QCL [REDACTED] to tell you that you were scum, even when I was [REDACTED] at swimming and boxing. Even at the age of fifteen she would regularly say, "Who would love you?" or, "You're un-loveable." things like that. QCL [REDACTED] would keep telling me that I would never be anything.
165. Another thing QCL [REDACTED] would do was to put you in the small cupboard under the stairs. It was just along from the playroom, past the radiator. I think hoovers and cleaning stuff were kept in there. She would put you in there and put the snib over. There was a light in the cupboard but you weren't allowed to put the light on.
166. One time in particular that she put me in the cupboard she forgot I was there. She remembered at about 4.00 am. She came and got me out of the cupboard and battered me senseless because I forgot to tell her when she went to her bed that I was still in the cupboard. I probably would have been in trouble if I had reminded her.
167. QCL [REDACTED] had other punishments as well. One of the chores I had to do was polish the shoes. If she didn't like the way they were polished I had to do them again. That was followed by a stint in the shed or the toilet at the end of the walkway. There was no light in the shed or the toilet and she would leave you in there. There were all sorts of noises and as a child I was imagining all sorts of things. I would think that some man was coming to get me or I would think that I could hear people talking but it was just my imagination. But as a child I didn't know that.
168. I can't remember what I did but QCL [REDACTED] trapped me between the milk churns and she skelped me over the head with the lid of the aluminium churn. I went to the ground and I was knocked out. When I came round, QCL [REDACTED] was standing over me like an ogre. I was not checked out for concussion by a doctor, they didn't do

things like that. I reported that to GDO but his reply was, "Get out Stop telling lies."

169. QCL would also make references to my race but it was done in sneaky ways. There used to be an Australian TV kids programme called Boney, about an aboriginal boy so she used to call me Boney. She also referred to the TV programme Roots. She would call me Kunta Kinte or Chicken George. These weren't said to me directly, QCL would use these names when speaking to someone else but you knew who it was aimed at. I was the only person of colour there.
170. She would mutter that I was a, "Wog." I took that to be a reference to my skin but she would say that it stood for Western Oriental Gentleman, she made out it was a joke. There were other adults as well as QCL who used racist abuse but I can't remember all of them. They would call me Cassius when I was boxing. It was bad enough getting called names by children but it was worse when it was adults.
171. There used to be a great big tree outside Quarriers and I climbed it one summer. The whole of the summer holidays I had to be in by 4.00 pm because I had climbed that tree. Everyone else was allowed out to play. That was the kind of kick QCL got out of punishing you.
172. I wanted to join the Boy's Brigade. John Porteous was in charge of the Boy's Brigade so I went to see him to ask if I could join. He said something like, "No chance, you've got the wrong colour of skin you black bastard."
173. John Porteous was also good friends with GDO I think that's how they could get away with things for so long. they would back each other up. If GDO had said anything about John Porteous, he was going to put himself in the frame as well. It is still the same today, you won't get one to speak out against the other.

174. I didn't report the racist verbal abuse from John Porteous. I think I just went home crying. I know that I was about eight years old when that happened because straight after he refused to let me join the Boy's Brigade, I joined the scouts.
175. I didn't like the [REDACTED] there was something about him. His name was [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I think he was convicted in the early 1990's for sexually abusing children, but I don't think it was at Quarriers, I think it was to do with special needs children.
176. I think I was about twelve or thirteen years old when something happened with [REDACTED] [REDACTED] As [REDACTED] he said we could come up to see him anytime. I can't remember where he lived, it might have been Bridge of Weir. I think it was the idea of an older boy we were out playing with and [REDACTED] house was near where we were playing. There was me and other boys, I can't even remember how many, it might have been four. I don't want to name the older boy. I have spoken to him since leaving Quarriers and he doesn't want to talk about it so I would prefer that he be anonymous.
177. We walked to [REDACTED] house. I remember he had no top on. I can't remember what happened but we were in his room and he was lying on the bed, with no top on. I have no idea why but I was touching him. I was touching his chest, I remember he had a dip or indentation in his chest. I don't know where else I was touching him. I don't know if the others were touching him.
178. The older boy we had gone there with burst into the room and said, "C'mon, we're getting out of here right now!" [REDACTED] didn't protest and I just jumped off the bed and away I went with the older boy. I spoke to my psychiatrist about it and she said that maybe I had blocked out what happened because of the trauma.
179. There was another woman called [REDACTED] [REDACTED] A lot of people thought she was wonderful but she was not a nice person. [REDACTED] was in charge of Cottage 8. She was friends with [REDACTED] [REDACTED] She had [REDACTED] and they were O.K. but one of them was a bit of a bully and used to try and get their dog to bite people. I have heard that someone from Quarriers is taking a court case against [REDACTED] but I don't know who or what for.

180. I know a whole family who were in Cottage 8. A few years ago one of the girls in that family told me that QBM sat on her, using her knees to pin the girl's shoulders to the ground, and she battered the girl. The girl told me she was only about seven or eight years old at the time. I can't remember the girls' name.
181. QBM s in Quarriers, if anyone had children of their own then they were deemed to be staff. That meant they could hit you and you couldn't do anything about it.
182. QBM would be a backup for QCL when QCL would hit you after GDO when he would phone to tell her before you got back to Cottage 39.
183. It wasn't uncommon to see other children with injuries. You would ask them what happened and they would say they had got a hiding. That wouldn't be unusual but you would only really talk about it amongst your friends.
184. My friend's older sister got a punishment for something which was to walk from the top of the hill towards the church. While she was doing this she had to draw the shape of a circle with her fingertips, as if it was a record that was playing. Then she had to point down into the middle of it, like she was poking a hole in the middle of the circle. That was the kind of thing they made you do.
185. There was a girl called QLW who When I spoke to her brother about it he said that Quarriers had ruined him. He took them to court years ago but the verdict was not proven. They told him privately that they got away with it because the defence counsel was so good. His younger brother was abused and just shuts down at the mention of the place.

Reporting of abuse at Quarriers

186. I did report the abuse in Cottage 39 to my mum once but at the time that I told her she was on the drink so she didn't really take it on board. If I had told her when she was sober she would have battered [REDACTED] because my mum was violent. However alcohol got in the way.
187. The sad thing was that when the social work people came from Glasgow they honestly didn't believe me. They thought these women were great. I reported the beatings to various social workers, whichever one they sent to Quarriers. You would get to speak to the social workers on your own but [REDACTED] would say to them that you had fallen and you were terrified to say anything in front of her. The whole cottage was petrified of the woman. As soon as the social worker was gone you got another beating because you told them about her beating you and being cruel. Nobody believed you.
188. In Cottage 39 we watched a film of Robin Hood. One day me and my friend decided we were going to make bows and arrows and play Robin Hood. I was washing the dishes, washing the pots. In between I was going out to get to bend this branch to make my bow. [REDACTED] came out and asked me what I was doing. I said I was making a bow and arrow. She took the bit of wood and she battered me from my backside to the top of my back. I was black and blue all the way down my back.
189. I went [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. I told him what [REDACTED] had done and I was crying. He said to me, "I can't believe you have come down here and told me a big lie about that good Christian woman Aunty [REDACTED]" That is how he referred to her, I had to call her mum.
190. I went back up to the cottage but in between times [REDACTED] had telephoned [REDACTED] [REDACTED] to tell her that I had been to him to report being hit so when I got to the cottage she battered me senseless again for reporting her. That was the good Christian woman as [REDACTED] called her and that is how you were treated by some individuals in Quarriers. You were a nothing in their eyes. I know people think it is just a job but these people had a free reign over our lives.

191. After that, I still went to ^{GDO} [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] because that is what you were supposed to do but it was the same script. As soon as you left he was on the phone and you would get another beating.

Leaving Quarriers

192. In my time, as soon as you were old enough to leave Quarriers, you were gone. When I was fifteen and a half years old I was working as a galley boy on a Cal Mac ferry. I wasn't staying at Quarriers any more, I was sleeping on the ferry but I was still classed as a Quarriers person.
193. As soon as I was old enough to go to sea I left Scotland and joined the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I can't remember how long I was at sea for. My mum never changed her ways until her dying day and I didn't want to be around all of that. Her life was alcohol and we were surplus.

Life after being in care

194. After being at sea I came back and stayed with my aunt [REDACTED] in Glasgow. There was a bit of a fall out so I left and had nowhere to live. I think I went to the social work department in Glasgow. Ian Brodie, a social worker I had known from Quarriers got me a place in a flat on [REDACTED] but I didn't like the people there so I joined the military when I was seventeen.
195. I have been married a couple of times. I have four children and six grandchildren. Three of my children live in England and my youngest daughter lives in Lithuania. My youngest still speaks to me but the others don't really speak to me because of how the system was back then when I broke up from their mother. Back then the wife got the children and the husband was marginalised. I don't blame my ex-wife for that, it's just how the system was then.

Impact

196. I think one of the most difficult things about Quarriers was that none of the staff wanted to know what it was like growing up. As an adult I can understand that they were treating it just like a job. As long as they were getting paid, they would just treat us like cannon fodder to be laughed at.
197. My sister [REDACTED] had a great time at Quarriers. She doesn't remember the majority of the bad times from Cottage 15. She remembers some of it. For whatever reason they didn't bother [REDACTED]
198. I can't remember who said it but I think it is documented that someone said about Quarriers children, "You've got to remember that a lot of the children had baggage." There was a girl who I know, but don't want to name, who said, "I came into Quarriers when I was six months old. What baggage did I have with me?"
199. There are very few people who were in Cottage 39 that I have met in adult life that have a good word to say about Quarriers. When I have mentioned it to [REDACTED] she says, "Maybe you should have behaved yourself?" but I was just being a normal boy climbing trees and what teenager doesn't answer back?
200. It's only as I have got older that I have seen psychiatrists and psychologists who explained to me how my early childhood experiences have impacted on me. It would be great to wave a magic wand and take the self-doubt out of my head. Unfortunately it doesn't work like that.
201. I got good grades in school, but there was never any commendation for achievement. Any time I won anything the attitude was, "Oh, so you think you're the best now?" Not only was there no encouragement to do better, there wasn't even any encouragement to carry on doing well. I am not very good at sums, I can't even do my four times table, but I used to do poetry and art. I still have an occasional day writing things but I just

think why would anyone want to read it? Maybe things would have been different if I had gone to art school.

202. The attitudes I experienced at Quarriers affected my married life. My former wife cheated on me. My thought process was, "Why wouldn't she? Why would she love me anyway? It's no more than I deserve." That seems to be my thought process whenever anything goes wrong.
203. I have been diagnosed as suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Everyone I have seen links my behaviour to my time at Quarriers. One psychologist told me that I have a dissociative disorder. Another said that I was borderline bipolar. I had more anger and behavioural problems when I was younger. I think now that I am older I don't get so angry.
204. I am getting treatment just now but my psychologist suggested I suspend counselling until after the court case against Quarriers has been concluded, if it goes to court.
205. I have a lot of nightmares about Quarriers. I dream of fighting or being attacked. I can't honestly say I have ever had a pleasant dream. I have flashbacks too, if I watch certain things on T.V. I try to avoid watching anything about children being abused. It doesn't do me any good so I try to stay away from it. It's the same with films where a woman is being beaten, because of seeing my mum being abused by men.
206. I saw my brother last year for the first time in 25 years. I saw [REDACTED] last year, I try to keep in touch with her by phone and try to make sure she is alright. I have friends who live near her and she knows she can contact them if she needs to. I haven't seen my older sister for years. I am a bit of a loner, I am quite happy to shut my door and leave the world outside. I was like that in the military too. I would do what was required of me on duty but when people were inviting me to go out and socialise I would decline and just stay in the barracks.
207. I find it difficult to talk about the abuse that I suffered, especially with the stuff before Quarriers. I witnessed things that no child should have to witness. When I went to

Quarriers I thought my life was going to be different because I would have a bed and three square meals a day, but I found out that came with some other things.

208. I now know that my adult life has been really terribly affected by my time in Quarriers, which is really sad. Sometimes I find it really hard to interact with people. If I had my way, I wouldn't leave my house. I force myself to go to the shops, or go out for a walk. The most I tend to say to people is hello or good evening. I don't want to interact with people, I want them to leave me alone.
209. I have been back to Quarriers four or five times, but it has literally been a drive around the place to show my wife where I had stayed and then we would go. There was a time when I stopped, when I spoke to GDO [REDACTED]
210. Even at the age of 59, if my wife and I have an argument I will think that it is my fault and that no-one could love me. I still have that mind-set that I am worthless. Why should I have life when people are dying around me?
211. I have felt suicidal in the past and my wife has said that she can't believe I am alive, which is kind of sad. I'm glad I am talking about what happened but I'm sad when I see people with mums and dads, people who got tucked up in bed as a child.
212. With my ex-wives, when my kids were young, I didn't find it difficult to parent them. My first wife always told my children I was good to them. The only problem I had was when I had to tell them off or punish them by sending them to their room. I would feel sorry for them, they didn't know what they had done wrong. Out of all my children I probably did most with my youngest son, rather than my older two. I don't know if that was because of Quarriers, or because I was in the military when they were younger and I was here, there, and everywhere when they were young.
213. Other than my youngest daughter none of my children speak to me because my marriages all fell apart. I'm not saying that was all because of Quarriers but the thought, "Why should I have any happiness?" did contribute to the marriages ending.

214. I was never told in Quarriers that I was doing well. It wasn't just me, there were lots of boys and girls that grew up with those same feelings of inadequacy. ██████ told me he is on medication and it is only now that he realises that it is because of what Quarriers did to him. He told me that he felt like everything he touched, he broke. I told him he was not alone, that I feel like that.

Reporting of Abuse

215. It was only after meeting my wife that I told anyone about the sexual abuse I suffered as a child.

216. I have kept in touch with a couple of the boys that I was with at The Training School Indefatigable. In 2020 I told one of them about the abuse that I suffered as a child, including the abuse I suffered while in the care of my mother. He couldn't believe that I had coped with all of that. I had to say that I hadn't really coped with it all, I had buried it. I had grown up to accept what I was told at Cottage 39, that I wasn't worth anything.

217. I recently told a friend of mine about the abuse I suffered at Quarriers. He was in Quarriers, in a different cottage but QCL ██████ was friendly with his cottage parent. He was crying when I told him, he couldn't believe I had kept it all locked up for so many years. He said that when QCL ██████ came in to their cottage, all the kids would scatter. It was like there was a cold wind, like the devil had walked into the cottage. Even though he didn't know about the abuse, she still had a presence.

218. It was my psychologist who told me I should report matters to the police and I gave them a statement in 2019. It has all been put back because of Covid. I think it was last year that they phoned me to say it was still a live case. It was just after that QCL ██████ died but the police did say they would still be pursuing it.

219. I told the police about QCL ██████ John Porteous, GDO ██████ and QBM ██████ I never mentioned the ██████ LRE ██████ not because I didn't

want to but because I am not sure what happened. I told them all about the physical and mental abuse. For me that was continual.

Records

220. I got my records from Glasgow City Council and found out a lot of things. I found out that we were removed from my mother by the police on a number of occasions. We were put into foster places and other places. Sometimes it was just overnight and then we were returned to her.
221. GDO [REDACTED] was meant to [REDACTED] Quarriers. I saw him a few years ago and I challenged him for beating me for walking on the grass. I said, "You wouldn't beat me for walking on the grass now would you GDO [REDACTED] He just said he was an old man now, and tried to hurry away. I asked about records and he said there was a terrible fire and most of the records had been burnt. He almost took pleasure in saying that [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
222. There is a house in Quarriers where they still have records. I was told to go there at a certain time and I spoke to a woman. I didn't realise until then that the only qualification to work at Quarriers was you needed to be a member of the church and to be of good standing in the community. They didn't need any qualifications in child care.
223. My records from Quarriers are so sparse. I read things that weren't true. They were supposed to write down every time you had a complaint but there was nothing. Their cop-out was that the records had been destroyed in a fire but the records that were complimentary towards Quarriers staff survived. We used to get a photograph taken every year but there were no photographs.
224. I feel quite angry about what I have seen in my records. It was all bits and pieces, there was nothing concrete. There was no record of any complaints I made, no records of me speaking to social workers. It was the same with my records from Glasgow City Council. Things like the time when my mum failed to return us on time, that was in my

records because that made Quarriers look good. Me going to school in Wales was in for the same reason.

225. Given that I had been told that my records were lost in a fire, there was no explanation as to how these favourable records had survived. There were things about my niece and nephew which were blanked out due to data protection. There was nothing in my records about what I had to say about Quarriers. There was a time once a year where you had to tell them what you did or did not like about Quarriers but none of that was there.
226. QCL [REDACTED] is dead now but up until she died my sister [REDACTED] kept in touch with her and used to visit her, she thought QCL [REDACTED] was great. I told her that I thought differently. It is only since getting her records that [REDACTED] has been able to see some of the things that QCL [REDACTED] wrote. [REDACTED] had always thought that QCL [REDACTED] loved her but in actual fact that wasn't the case. A lot of people I have spoken to who were in Cottage 39 have found that out.

Lessons to be learned

227. I know they say things like, "Give children a voice." And I agree with that. However I think in a lot of cases where children have experienced the bad side they should ask those children what it is like in care. You need to learn the lessons from what they have experienced.
228. In my opinion Glasgow City Council was just as bad as Quarriers. Someone from amongst the older children who had left must have told them that Quarriers was not as good as was made out. They chose to go along with a lie, they focused on Quarriers being set in lovely surroundings, inferring that the children were happy and running about all day long. They didn't do their job properly, they didn't look into things in Quarriers. In my time, there were children running away from Quarriers every day. If that is the situation, you have to look into why children want to run away from the place.

229. The people in charge of cottages at Quarriers only had to be members of a church to qualify for the position. It is not a question of them having more qualifications, there should have been someone to observe them and see how they interact with children.
230. My wife often remarks about how well children get on with me. I think this is because I live in their world. I can hold a conversation with an adult of course, but there is no point in talking to a child about the colour of the sky when they want to talk about the latest cartoon or the latest gadget. You have to come down to their level.
231. Even today when you hear of children who have, "Slipped through the net." I think that part of the problem is that even though the adults have qualifications to care for children, they don't have the skills that they need in addition to the qualifications, like the ability to interact with children. It's no good talking to a child about how a car works when they want to know how fast the car is. I know things have changed over time and it's not universal but most girls wouldn't want to talk about Action Man, they would want to talk about pretty dollies. When I was young girls wanted to know why their mum's dyed their hair.
232. I was with a friend recently and his kids came home from school. He asked them how they got on at school and they just said, "Fine." I said, "So you just went to school and sat there listening to the teacher until it was time to come home?" the replied that no, they had done lots of things. I then asked them what things and they proceeded to tell me. My friend remarked that I had got more out of his kids in five minutes about their time at school, than he got in a whole week. I think the way to win children over is you have to go into their world, not expect them to come into your world. You have to let them know that no-one is going to shout at them if they say that they got into trouble with the teacher.
233. When my youngest son turned sixteen years of age. He came in from school and asked what was for dinner. I jokingly told him he would have to cook for himself now that he was sixteen. My wife joined in and told him he was going to have to clean his own clothes too. He looked shocked so I had to tell him we were only joking but we

did teach him these skills, we taught him how to be self-sufficient. By the time he was eighteen years old he had his own flat and was living independently and he has been very successful in life.

Hopes for the Inquiry

234. I know there are not as many children’s homes now but there are still children who live with parents who have drug and alcohol issues, where the children live with a sense of threat. Children in that situation need to know that they are worth something, that they are not nothing. If you can make a child laugh, you have hit the spot. Sadly I missed out on a lot of stuff like that.

Other information

235. 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.....GDB.....

Dated..... 20 August 2021