

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

ECW

Support person present: No

1. My name is ^{ECW} [REDACTED]. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1969. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I don't remember anything about my life before going into care. I was in care from when I was a baby.

Blairvadach Children's Home, Helensburgh 1969/70 to 1979/80

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

16.

17.

18.

19.

20.

21.

22.

23.

24.

25.

26.

27. I went on a trip to Canada with Bill Quigg, the scoutmaster. I think there was discussion about getting a passport, but I think someone else got it for me. It was all the boys from Bill Quigg's scout group who went and I think we went for two weeks. I stayed with a really nice family in Canada. I remember one of their kids was really ill. He used to have to go on this machine for his breathing. I don't know what the purpose of the trip was. I think it was something to do with the scouts and maybe Canadian Scouts were going to come to Scotland. We went to church and Bill Quigg was very upset about that, I don't know why but he seemed angry about them taking me to church. I was never a churchy person, I didn't like it.

28.

29.

30.

31.

32.

33.

34.

35.

36.

37.

38.

39.

40.

41.

42.

43.

44.

45.

46.

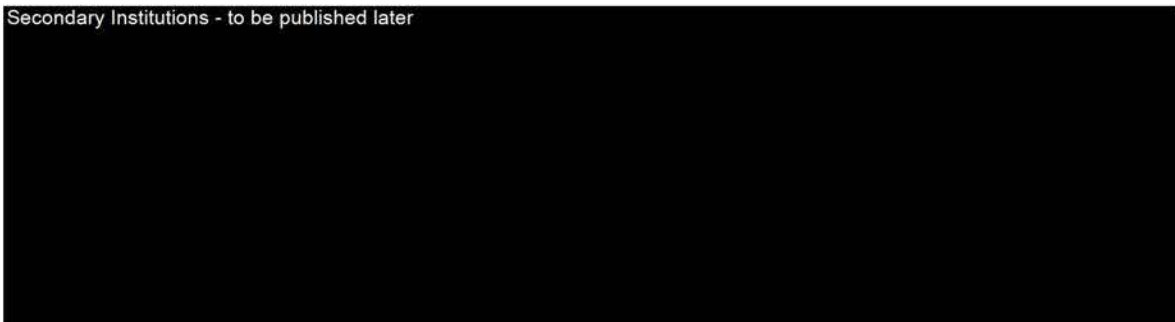
47. There was a guy called Bill Quigg. He was from Glasgow and would have been about forty or fifty years old when I knew him. He worked for the council and he was in charge of the builders. He was a Scout leader as well. There was a hut in the grounds being fixed and I went over to see what was happening. Bill Quigg was there and he

obviously liked me. He invited me to the Cubs. It was a bit of excitement to get out of the house. He bought me toys. He bought me a Six Million Dollar Man outfit. The toys he bought me were kept in his house, so I always wanted to go to his home. I suppose that was his method of grooming, and embarrassingly it worked. His house was in Drumchapel or Bearsden. I don't know why the staff at Blairvadach let me go off with him. He used to make me masturbate him and perform oral sex. That started when I was eight or nine years old. He took me to Canada on holiday. I think that was through the Cubs or the Scouts. He never penetrated me, it was all to do with his penis and being a bit huggy. I think the incidents of abuse happened at his house. He lived with his mother and father.

48. I can't remember how often I went to his house, but it was quite a lot. I have no recollection of any formal discussion at Blairvadach about me going to his house.
49. Later, he took more kids to his house. In order to do so, he got married to a woman across the road. Her name was FHE [REDACTED], but she was not the member of staff at Blairvadach called ECU [REDACTED]. I don't think he was interested in women and I don't think she was interested in him, but it meant he was able to adopt.
50. He wanted to adopt me. I don't know how long I had known Bill Quigg before the issue of adoption came up. They tried to arrange for me to be adopted when I was about ten. I think the staff at Blairvadach were a bit quick in considering allowing him to adopt me. They had to get parental consent for that so they got in touch with my mother, [REDACTED], who was living in Birkenhead. When they spoke to me about adoption and I found out I had a mother, I said, "Why would I want to be adopted? I want to go with my mother."

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

51.



52.

53.

54.

Life after being in care

55. When I got to go and stay with my mother I was so happy that I had a parent. She was staying in Birkenhead at the time. I don't know where she was staying when I was born. She was from Glasgow but I don't know if that's why I went into care in Glasgow. When we got down to Birkenhead, she sat me down and tried to explain

why I had been put in care. It was very awkward, she was struggling. I said not to worry about it. There was clear relief on her face when I said this.

56. My mother was an alcoholic, drug addict, and a prostitute. When I was born, she was married to an Arabian man, [REDACTED] which is why I have the surname ^{ECW} [REDACTED]. I don't know how that worked with her being a prostitute, it is quite bizarre. He may have been her pimp, but I don't think that's the case. She had two other sons from that relationship, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. They are about ten years older than me. With a white child arriving into an Arabian family, it was like world war three. Those were the reasons I was dumped at Blairvadach in the first place. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] went into care too, but [REDACTED] got them back out of care after he separated from my mother. I didn't know any of this until I moved back with my mother when I was about ten years old.
57. Looking back, I don't think Blairvadach should have let me go with my mother. She just used me to get her shopping and things. I remember one time we were sitting on her bed watching a movie. I tried to cuddle in to her and she pushed me away, pushed me off the bed. I was really hurt by that, I felt rejected. She said something really strange. She said that her friend had slept with her own son, so she didn't want to get too close to me. I don't know if that meant she had sexual feelings for me. I think that's why I put up with so much from Bill Quigg, he was quite a huggy person and I wanted that sense of intimacy.
58. Although Blairvadach might have been a little bit rough in some respects, it was a fairly sheltered life. When I went to stay with my mother, It was a nightmare, I was straight into this bizarre situation. I was basically a little slave going to the shops and making her tea. She was a prostitute living with a guy called [REDACTED] who used to beat her up because she was a prostitute. He was very violent towards her, she was in hospital all the time. The police were often called out to the house. When my mother was working as a prostitute she would drag me around with her to Dockers pubs and on ships. It was a rough life, I didn't get showered with presents. The only Christmas present I got was a new school uniform again. That went on until I was about thirteen and then I just ran away from home.

59. I worked at a market garden. I would stay there at night or go and try to find somewhere to sleep. The funny thing is I carried on going to school. That went on until I was sixteen until I left school. I don't think I left school with many qualifications.
60. I joined the army when I was eighteen or nineteen. I was always very agile as a child. In all the playground games like British Bulldogs no one could ever catch me. The staff would say, "You would make a great soldier." and I think that stuck with me. The time came when I wasn't working and I went to the army recruitment. I was in the army for between four and five years. It was exciting, I did all sorts of things. I did sniper training which is one of the hardest things in the British Army. You have to be an A1 infantryman, a marksman, and all these other things before you can even think about doing that job, but I knew it wasn't for me. I didn't want to take someone's life just because someone else had told me, "Go and do this." That didn't make sense to me. It was in my second tour of Ireland that it really hit me and I asked myself what I was doing there.
61. When I came out of the army I was 23 years old. I bought a guitar and that changed my life completely. Although I was working on building sites doing hod-carrying and stuff, I took the guitar really well. I finished a job on a building site and I went right into the guitar. Everyone was saying I should do something with it. I applied for Music College and got in. I studied so hard for my audition that I knew more than the teacher. After college I studied classical music at Liverpool University.
62. I did get back in touch with my mother after running away aged thirteen. I spoke to her a few times. Then my maternal uncle got in touch with me. He had been in the army and my mother must have told him what unit I was in. He told me that she was dying of cancer. I saw her in the hospice where she was being cared for, I was with her when she died. I told her I loved her and she told me she loved me. That was the first and only time she said that. She was 53 years old when she died.
63. I can't remember when my mother died, I know I was a mature student studying music after I had been in the army. My mum and [REDACTED] had been separated for some time at the time of her death. After my mother's funeral, my half-brother [REDACTED]

told me that his father [REDACTED] basically wanted to kill me. He said that [REDACTED] fed me shit from my own nappy. I told [REDACTED] where I was living, it was just across the road from his house. He invited me over. When I got in to the house, [REDACTED] screamed, "Get that out of my house." I can't remember anything after that for the whole day.

64. I didn't get on well with my course at Liverpool University. They wanted me to read a lot of stuff and learn music that other people had written. I wanted to get out into the field to speak to the people playing the stuff I wanted to learn about. When my mother died, they gave me a year off to deal with my bereavement. I went travelling and learned a lot about music from various gypsy groups. Unknown to me, one of the groups I was staying with was used for Mafia recruitment. The man who was in charge of the place tried to recruit me. He invited me to a beach party and while I was there some of my stuff was stolen, including my guitar amplifier which was my way of generating money by busking. He told me not to worry, that they would look after me. He wanted me to be a drug mule in Morocco. I didn't want to do that so I got out of that situation and that's how I ended up homeless in Edinburgh. After I came back from travelling I have mostly been doing odd jobs. I was living in a homeless hostel but I now have my own flat.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

65.

66.

67.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

68.

69.

70.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

71.

72. I did go back to visit Blairvadach as an adult. I was about eighteen, just before I joined the army. It was weird because there were still children there who were there when I was in care. I remember there was [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and others. I saw Bill Quigg, I went to see him on the way to Blairvadach. That's when I found out he had adopted or fostered two other lads.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

73.

74.

75.

Lessons to be learned

76. Children in care should be more protected. In my case I was able to wander off on my own and go to Bill Quigg's house. I was always there. There was no question of the staff at Blairvadach wondering if everything was O.K. with that situation.

77. Secondary Institutions - to be published later


Hopes for the Inquiry

78. I hope there is more actual care in respect of reading what is going on with a child. A child in care should not be put in a torture position, they are not prisoners of war. There should be protection from people like Bill Quigg who take advantage of children and do and say all the right things to make a child go with them.

Other information

79. 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..... *20/01/20*