

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

FLD
[REDACTED]

Support person present: No

1. My full name is ^{FLD} [REDACTED] My name at birth was ^{FLD} [REDACTED] My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1968. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I was born in Dundee. My mother was [REDACTED] and my dad was [REDACTED]
3. I had two older brothers and an older sister, and two younger brothers. The oldest was [REDACTED] then it was [REDACTED] my sister, me, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] There was a year between us all.
4. I stayed in the family home with my family when I was born. My mother worked in a jute mill and my father was unemployed.
5. We were still living together as a family when my younger brothers came along.
6. A lorry came through our house one day and we had to find somewhere else to live so we moved in with my aunty. I'm led to believe that six of us kids shared a room and a bed.
7. Life was horrible at home. The father was jailed for fraud. My mother had a lot of us to deal with. I was quite cheeky and she used to hit me across the head quite a lot.

8. When I was about four or five years old, I was put into a shelter in Dundee with my brother [REDACTED]. It was just for a little while to give my mum relief. I don't have any memories of the place or remember where it was.
9. We left the Dundee shelter and went back to stay with our mother. Shortly after being home, my mother caught me and my sister touching each other inappropriately. When she asked us about it, it came out that our father had been sexually abusing us.
10. I remember the abuse and my father putting his penis in my mouth. There was a police investigation and he admitted that he'd been abusing us and he was jailed for two years for it.
11. Later in life I found out that [REDACTED] was not my real father. I never found out who my biological father was.
12. The mother then abandoned all five of us siblings in Dundee, except [REDACTED] who stayed with her. The social work department had to find placements for five of us. [REDACTED] and I were kept together but separated from the others.
13. Everything happened in a short space of time. I remember I'd started primary school by then as well, but don't remember where.

Foster care – Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] FOC-SPO Dundee

14. [REDACTED] and I were put in a short term foster placement with foster parents called Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] FOC-SPO who lived in Dundee. I think I was about five years old at the time.
15. I remember their house was full of other kids. There were about half a dozen other foster kids, but I don't remember their names or ages.

16. All I remember about the ^{FOC-SPO} [REDACTED] was that they didn't want us there and Mr ^{FOC} [REDACTED] was a nasty man who used to beat me and [REDACTED]
17. I was a bed wetter so used to wet the bed. Mr ^{FOC} [REDACTED] would hit me across the head for that. It was only Mr ^{FOC} [REDACTED] who hit me.
18. I don't remember the first names of the ^{FOC-SPO} [REDACTED] but looking back, I seem to remember Mr ^{FOC} [REDACTED] as being a black man, but I don't know if that is right.
19. We were only at the ^{FOC-SPO} [REDACTED] s house for two or three months and we didn't have contact with our family during that time.
20. It says in my records that the ^{FOC-SPO} [REDACTED] wanted us out of their house because they were going on holiday. The social workers had to find another placement for us.
21. I remember me and [REDACTED] being put in a car by a social worker and driven away somewhere. We were told that we were going on a trip.
22. I don't know who the social worker was who took us. I know that I later had social workers from Dundee called Dr Stephens or James Dunmore, so it may have been them, but I don't know.
23. We were taken to a shelter in Aberdeen. I don't know where the rest of my siblings went.

Shelter in Aberdeen

24. I remember arriving at a big house in Aberdeen and being told that I would be staying there. I was about five years old and I wanted my mum.
25. I don't remember much about Aberdeen. But I remember going to primary school.

26. By the time I had arrived at Aberdeen, my ears were always ringing and had discharge coming out from them. That was from the foster parent, Mr ^{FOC} [REDACTED] hitting me across the head all the time and my own mum used to hit me as well.
27. We were only in Aberdeen for about a month. I didn't have any contact with the rest of my family during that time. Then we were taken by social workers to Quarriers. Nothing was explained to us, but we were told that we were going to see our family, which I was excited about because I was quite a mummy's boy.
28. We weren't taken to see our family. We were taken to Quarrier's Village.

Quarrier's Village, Bridge of Weir

29. I was about five years old when I went to Quarriers with [REDACTED] My other [REDACTED] brothers and sister joined us about a month later, if I remember rightly.
30. When I arrived at Quarriers, I remember thinking it was lovely. There were big houses with big gardens, and loads of kids running about.
31. There were three parts to Quarriers. When you came from Bridge of Weir, the first part was cottages, then the main bit was down the hill and to the right. There was a long road with the main office on one side, which is where you would go when you first went there. There was also the social work place in the middle bit. There were two cottages and the draper place, shop and laundry. Behind that, there were green houses.
32. As you came into Quarriers, There was a long main road with cottages on either side. At the end of that road was a big hall called Summerville Hall and that was where the Boys Brigade was held. Half way along the main road, before you got to the end, there was a left turn going down a hill and there were cottages on either side of that hill too. Then at the bottom of the hill, the church was right the front, the school was to the right and there were more cottages to the left.

33. Then there was a big bridge, which was open at the time for cars to go over. Then there were more cottages. It went round in a big circle.
34. Dr Minto was in charge of Quarriers, but you hardly ever saw him. The second in charge was the superintendent who was called Joe Mortimer. They both lived in Quarriers and worked at the office. They never had any day to day contact with the kids.
35. When we first arrived, we were taken into a big massive house next to the church. I remember seeing the big bell tower on the church and thinking, wow, because it was huge.
36. I remember being in four different cottages while I was in Quarriers.

Quarriers Village - Cottage 21

37. [REDACTED] and me were taken to cottage 21. It was a huge house. When you went in through the front door, there was a big living room and a big kitchen at the back. On the other side of the kitchen, there was a huge shed with the backdoor to the house. The shed was used to keep shoes and hang coats if you were coming in and out of the back door.
38. The bedrooms and bathroom were upstairs in the cottage. The house parent had her own room. Then there was a girls' dormitory and a boys' dormitory. My dorm had three bunkbeds in it, maybe even more, so it was quite a tight fit.
39. I never had my own bed in cottage 21 and always shared a bed while I was there. I shared with a boy called [REDACTED]
40. There was the only house parent, but she had a house aunty to help her. The majority of the time it was both of them there, but sometimes the house parent would be off, and then the house aunty would be in charge. I don't remember their names.

41. There were a lot of kids in the house. I remember the [REDACTED] who were from a traveling family and had been put into care. There was [REDACTED] who was an older girl and her brother, [REDACTED] who was about my age.

Daily routine

42. [REDACTED] sister, [REDACTED] was always up first in the house. She was a teenager, maybe thirteen years old. She would wake me and [REDACTED] up before anybody else got up. This was because we were bed wetters so she would get us up and help us to get washed in the bathroom. I think she was already in a routine of doing this with [REDACTED] before I got there.
43. Then I would get myself ready for school. I wore a uniform for school, which was shorts. I wore shorts all year round, even when I was wearing normal clothes. I was always in shorts and a t-shirt. I would have a jumper in the winter as well.
44. Then it was downstairs for breakfast, which was in the kitchen. We all sat around a huge dining table, which held fourteen to twenty kids.
45. Then we would go to school which was within Quarrier's grounds. The older kids would walk me to school and drop me off on their way to school.
46. I remember having horrible, warm milk in school which all the kids had to have. I think we also had lunch at school, but I don't remember. When we got a bit older, we always went home for lunch, but that was after cottage 21.
47. After school, we went straight back to the cottage. We went in the back door, and took our shoes and coats off in the shed before going in the house.

48. We would do homework once we got in if we had any. The house parent or aunty would tell us to do that. I remember the older kids helping me with any homework I had. I didn't ask the house parent or aunty for help, I just went to [REDACTED] if I needed any help.
49. My big brother was there and I could sometimes go to him for help for anything but he was quiet. I was more boisterous than him. We would sometimes have a fall out, but I got on with the other kids, especially the [REDACTED]
50. After doing our homework, we were allowed to go out and play in the play park within the grounds. The play park was behind the church. I couldn't see my cottage from the play park. It had a roundabout, slides in it.
51. We would have our dinner about 5 pm. Then we could play outside or inside for a couple of hours.
52. I would be out playing in all weather. It was our choice to go out and play; we didn't have to go but we liked being out. When it was snowing, we would make our own toys, we would make a buggy out of a pram or use bin bags as slides.
53. You wouldn't see all the kids from school when you were out to play because not all the kids were allowed out to play. Some cottages were more strict than others and some kids you would only ever see at school.
54. We needed to be home, but I can't remember what age at that time. I think maybe about 7 pm.

Mealtimes / Food

55. It was always porridge for breakfast, which I hated. It was the house mother, the house aunty or older kids who would cook it.

56. The older kids made the breakfast, and set the table. There was always toast for breakfast. If somebody had burnt it, then that's what we had to eat. I didn't have to do anything because I was so young.
57. The food was all home cooked, old fashioned food like stew and mince and tatties. We got a roast on a Sunday with chicken. The older kids helped with preparing the vegetables and things for mealtimes, as well as the washing up.
58. The food was good in Quarriers, and healthy, and was enough for me. We never got frozen food or anything.
59. We had set meal times, and we couldn't help ourselves to things from the pantry.

Schooling

60. School at Quarriers was good. It was just like a normal primary school. You got to meet different kids from Quarriers. It was strict but it was ok.
61. We were taught everything like English and arithmetic. I wasn't very good when I started because I had already been in a few different schools before going to Quarriers.

Washing / bathing

62. There was a big, old fashioned steel bath in the bathroom, and big white sinks.
63. Bath times were supposed to be in the evening, before going to bed. It was always [REDACTED] who gave us younger ones a bath. The youngest would be in and out, and I was the youngest so I got in first and went to bed. I would pee in the bath water and [REDACTED] would just say that was our secret so the ones coming in after wouldn't know.

64. [REDACTED] also used to always wash me and [REDACTED] in the mornings because we would always wet the bed. She could just wash us in the sinks and give us a wipe down because they were so big and we were wee.

Leisure time

65. When we played indoors, we just had old fashioned toys, but I don't really remember what they would have been in cottage 21 because I was so young. They weren't fancy toys. We might have had reading books but I don't really remember.

Trips / Holidays

66. I can't remember any holidays in cottage 21.

Birthdays and Christmas

67. I don't remember having a birthday at all in Quarriers.
68. I remember getting a Christmas dinner at Christmas. We also had a tree in the cottage and you would get one small present. You would say what you wanted to your house mother, and they would get you it. It would be wrapped up and put under the tree for Christmas day. I was young so I would ask for a car and got a car.
69. I think they got the toys from the big toy store in Quarriers. I think these were toys that were donated.

Visits

70. I didn't have any contact with my mum in cottage 21. I also don't remember any visits from social workers or anyone else while I was in cottage 21.

Healthcare

71. I don't remember getting any routine check-ups, but you would be sent to the matron in the Quarriers hospital if you were really ill.
72. I had a lot of problems with my ears. I was sent to the matron, and then referred to Ear Nose and Throat unit In Greenock. I was admitted there twice. One time I had to get my tonsils out, and another time I had discharge and blood coming out because I had perforated ear drums.
73. I had problems with my ears from a very young age. I was getting hit by mum when I was little as well so that could have started it, and then I was also getting hit over the head in Quarriers. Nobody at Quarriers or at hospital asked me if anything happened to cause damage to my ears.

Religious instruction

74. We had to go to church every Sunday, and it was Church of Scotland. I was from a Protestant family.
75. There was no choice about whether we went; we had to go. We sat in our own cottages, all together in one row.
76. I remember there was an epilepsy cottage in Quarriers and they came to church on a Sunday too. They wore these big things on their heads. I remember seeing one of the kids having a fit in church. It was scary the first time I saw it.
77. The only other religious thing depended on what cottage you were in and how religious the house parent was. We didn't have any other religious things in cottage 21.

Abuse in cottage 21

78. I got the odd slap in cottage 21 but it wasn't as bad as other cottages. I would get a slap from the house parent for being cheeky. The main thing I got hit for was wetting the bed.
79. If I was a bad boy, I'd be made to stand in the corner or stand in the shed.

Bed wetting

80. Me and [REDACTED] were both bed wetters and we wet the bed every night. [REDACTED] would take the sheets off our bed in the morning and take them away to wash. She would also clean us up by giving us a wash in the big sinks. I don't know if that's because the house mother made her do these things to help.
81. The house mother would give me a slap across the ear for wetting the bed. I remember my ear bleeding when I was in cottage 21. I don't know if that was from getting slapped for wetting the bed.

Leaving cottage 21

82. Cottage 21 was relaxed and the house parent was ok. I did get a slap when I was naughty or wet the bed, but it was a good cottage compared to later ones I was in.
83. It wasn't a bad cottage, and I think that was because [REDACTED] looked after us. I was so young and could go out and play, so it was quite relaxed for me. There wasn't any affection though.
84. My sister and two other brothers arrived at Quarriers, and were put in a different cottage. I met them when I was out at school or something. Nobody told me they were coming or took me to meet them. I was glad when I saw them.

85. I wanted to be with my sister, because we were close, so I started getting cheeky to get moved out of cottage 21. I didn't have anybody I could just tell that I wanted to be with my sister.
86. I started hanging around in my sister's cottage. Which was cottage 34, whenever I could. The house parent was a woman called Jean Chapman and she took me under her wing.
87. Jean Chapman then spoke to the social workers in Quarriers and asked for me to move into her cottage. I was told I was moving and I packed my bags and moved. I was pleased to be with my sister.
88. I was in cottage 21 for about a year I think, before I moved away.

Cottage 34 – Jean Chapman

89. I was about seven years old when I went into cottage 34. It was the best cottage that I was in while I was in Quarriers.
90. The layout of the cottage was the same as in cottage 21. I slept in the boys' dormitory and had my own bed in cottage 34.
91. Jean Chapman was the house mother and was in charge and she had women who we called aunties to help her, but I don't remember any of their names.
92. [REDACTED] moved into cottage 34 as well after a while. There were about fourteen kids in the cottage, including the five of us. That was the only cottage I was in with all of my siblings. I don't remember the names of any of the other kids.
93. Jean Chapman was such a wonderful woman. She was like a mother to every kid. We called her Aunty Jean.

94. There was a routine of going to school, but I would get out to play whenever I wanted after school. We still had a routine around mealtimes and bed times which was similar to cottage 21.
95. We ate at mealtimes and you couldn't help yourself to food. If you were hungry, you would go and ask Aunty Jean and she'd give you an apple or something. I also found out where the apple and pear trees were and would help myself to them. They were up behind the hospital.
96. We did get sweets in cottage 34 once a week, on a Saturday.
97. Jean would help me with my homework and reading and things. I had started to muck in and help out with chores and would help to peel the potatoes and things for dinner.
98. If any kid was bad, she never hit you. She would sit you down and talk to you and explain things so you understood.

Schooling

99. I wasn't very good at school but I did learn to read and write, and basic things like swimming.
100. I stayed at Quarriers for all of primary school. My big brothers had gone to the secondary within Quarriers.

Religious instruction

101. You had to go to church every Sunday morning. That was the same in every cottage.
102. Jean was quite religious and would make us say a prayer before meal times to give thanks for the food. Most cottages did that I think.

Christmas and birthday

103. Christmas was the same. We got a Christmas dinner and still just one present. As I got older, I remember going in and picking what I wanted at Christmas.
104. Jean would make an effort on your birthday and bake a cake for you. She wasn't able to do too much because she didn't have the money to do more.

Leisure time

105. I played outside a lot and had a good time in this cottage.
106. There was a pet's corner within Quarriers grounds where goats, sheep, guinea pigs, peacocks and rabbits were kept as pets. My brother [REDACTED] looked after the pet's corner and both my older brothers worked across from there in the painter's shed. I remember first going to pet's corner with my brother when I was about nine years old. That was when I first met John Porteous as he was in in charge of pet's corner.

Bed wetting

107. I was still wetting the bed, and Aunty Jean or another aunty would change the bedding. I never got shouted at for it.
108. I was the only bed wetter in the cottage and I remember Jean Chapman making a chart for me, and giving me stars if I didn't wet the bed. She was trying to help and get me to go as many days as I could without wetting the bed. It was a goal for me to work towards as well.

Bath times

109. One of the aunts would run you a bath and just leave you to have a bath yourself.

Visits

110. My mother remarried to a man called [REDACTED] in 1975, quite soon after we were put in care. He owned [REDACTED] shops in Dundee. I resented him because I felt like he'd taken my mum and that's why she didn't want me.
111. My mum and step dad came to visit about once or twice a year, but that was after I had been there for a while. I think it started when I was about ten or eleven years old. My brothers and sister would have a visit at the same time, and we'd all go for a walk or something. I never had time with my mum by myself.
112. When they visited, it broke the atmosphere after their visit. I would get upset and quiet once they'd been and gone. I would have expectations that she was going to take me away but she never did. She would tell me that she couldn't look after me.
113. Jean resented my mother's visits because the way it would affect me and the cottage, because she would have to pick up the pieces. It would take me a while to settle down again after the visit.
114. Jean would speak to the Quarriers social worker and the Dundee Social worker if there were any problems with the kids. She would tell you that she was going to speak to the social worker about you so you would know. She told me she was going to speak to them after my mum's visits. She was good at getting help if she needed it.
115. There would be a Quarriers social worker assigned to each cottage or family, I think. It was a man who was assigned to my family.
116. I also got visits from social workers about once or twice a year. They would come and see how I was doing. They would just chat to me in front of my house mother. They'd ask me how school was and what my reports were like. They would check how I was doing personally and see if I needed any help.
117. I would know that they were coming to visit before they came.

Trips and holidays

118. During my time at Quarriers, I went on holiday to Turnberry. There were wee holiday huts there owned by some rich man and Quarriers kids would go for a break there. He had built a swimming pool for the kids there as well.
119. The whole cottage would go and a few other cottages would go as well.

Leaving cottage 34

120. I can't remember how long I was in cottage 34 with Jean Chapman. It must have been between three and four years. She then got to retirement age and was retiring. All of the children in the cottage were distraught, including me. She was more of a mother to me than my own mother was.
121. I think all the kids from the cottage were put into cottage 42. That was for a very short time, and I don't remember who was in charge there. Then from there, the kids were all moved somewhere else.
122. I was put to cottage 43 with my sister and my brother, [REDACTED]

Cottage 43 – Mr and Mrs [REDACTED]

123. I was about eleven years old when I moved to cottage 43 with my brother and sister. [REDACTED] was also there.
124. Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] were in charge of cottage 43. They were older and quite strict. She was a dumpy wee woman. They had two of their own daughters, who stayed in the cottage as well. I don't remember any of their names.

125. The ^{QMO/QMP} wanted the kids in the cottage to call them mum and dad but I didn't want to because they weren't my mum and dad. I had become a bit rebellious and refused to call them it.
126. The routine was similar as the other cottages, but we didn't get out to play as much. The food was the same as in other cottages.
127. The ^{QMO/QMP}s were very religious so we still had to say prayers at mealtimes and go to church on a Sunday.
128. I went to Girvan for Boys' Brigade camp, with John Porteous, another leader and about ten other boys. We stayed in a big house while we were away for a week.
129. I would have been in primary six during my time there and went to the Quarriers school.

Abuse in cottage 43

130. I hated my time in cottage 43. I had gone from a nice cottage where nobody hit me, to this one where I got hit every day.
131. I didn't get on with my brother, ^{QMO/QMP}. We hated each other and were always fighting.
132. I was quite boisterous by this time and was quite argumentative with the house parents. I think that was because of the way I was being treated for wetting my bed every day.
133. The ^{QMO/QMP}s two daughters ganged up on me. They were older and I think they were of high school age. They were punching me and hitting me. Then Mr ^{QMO} hit me again for fighting with his daughters.
134. Their kids got everything and we got nothing. We were treated like a hindrance.

135. Mr ^{QMO} [REDACTED] hit me in front of other kids and in front of his wife. He would often make me stand in the back shed, which was outside and had no door. It was freezing cold and I was told to stand there for ages. It happened to me more than once so I was out there wearing either pyjamas or normal clothes, depending on the time of day. I would also be in bare feet.
136. I ran away one night when I was made to stand in the shed and spent the night with John Porteous.

Bed wetting

137. I was still wetting the bed. Mrs ^{QMP} [REDACTED] would give the bed wetters sweets if they managed not to wet the bed. I never got any because I wet the bed every night.
138. I remember one time when I wet the bed, Mr ^{QMO} [REDACTED] dragged me down the stairs and punched me. He then put me in a cold bath. He was hitting me on the back while I was in the bath. My back was all red.
139. I never felt safe in cottage 34 because I knew I'd get hit by Mr ^{QMO} [REDACTED] when I wet the bed, which was every night. I don't remember Mrs ^{QMP} [REDACTED] hitting me but she probably did. I would also get the wet sheets rubbed in my face in the morning.
140. I'd have sores between my legs from lying in wet sheets after wetting the bed. I didn't get any medical help for them.

Leaving cottage 43

141. I was in cottage 43 for about a year. I was eventually moved because I was too boisterous and was disrupting the other kids.
142. I was moved to cottage 36, where my brothers were.

Cottage 36

143. The Valentis were in charge of cottage 36. I was about eleven or twelve years old when I went into that cottage.
144. The Valentis were nice. Isobel Valenti was the house parent and she had house aunties to help her. Her husband, Mike, wasn't a house father. He had a job, and went out to work and would come back at night.
145. Isobel was a caring soul. I just called her by her name. The atmosphere was ok in that cottage. The food was the same as in other cottages, but I started going to an outside high school and would get dinner money, which I used to buy cigarettes. I had started smoking at about twelve years old.
146. I was in the cottage with my older brother [REDACTED] and younger brother, [REDACTED]. I was still fighting with [REDACTED].
147. I don't think we had to say prayers while I was at cottage 36, but still had to go to church on a Sunday.
148. We could get tents and go out and camp, but only outside your own cottage. We couldn't go further away.
149. I was a bit mixed up while I was in cottage 36 because of the abuse that was happening. I was doing stupid things like smashing windows and breaking into places, and trying to get money for cigarettes.

Schooling

150. I was in primary seven when I went into this cottage, and stayed there for first and second year of high school.

151. Quarriers closed their secondary school by the time I was about to start and were sending kids to outside schools, so I went to Linwood High School. It was between Johnstone and Paisley, near the airport. I remember always seeing the planes and wanting to go on them.
152. My sister went to Erskine High School.
153. I remember getting off the bus to go to Linwood on the first day and all the other kids calling it the orphan bus, and calling us the orphan kids. The other kids there did pick on the Quarriers kids, but I always stood my ground.
154. I realised that my education was under average compared to the other kids who were not from Quarriers.
155. I know that the teachers picked on the Quarriers kids as well. I remember one of the teachers calling us orphans, but I can't remember her name.
156. I was also always getting the belt. I would get six of the best. It happened to me all the time. As time went on, I wasn't standing for it anymore and was sticking up for myself against the teachers and the kids.
157. An education advisor person from Renfrewshire Council came to speak to me in Quarriers, because I was having problems settling in at Linwood. I can't remember her name but I told her about getting picked on by the teacher and getting called orphans, and she said she would investigate it. I don't know if it was investigated and nobody came back to speak to me.
158. I was withdrawn from Linwood in second year because of my behaviour. The headmaster was going to belt me, and I took the belt from him and chucked it out of the window. That was the last straw and I ended up leaving. I wasn't expelled; I was taken out before it got worse.

159. I was put back into Quarriers and had an outside teacher coming to teach me and two other girls.

Foster care – Mr and Mrs [FLF-SPO]

160. I was taken out of Quarriers to go and stay with foster parents at the weekends when I was about twelve years old.

161. I stayed with an older couple in their fifties, called Mr and Mrs [FLF-SPO]. They lived in a nice flat [REDACTED] in Glasgow and didn't have any kids of their own. Mr [FLF] was a vet and his brother [REDACTED] who had lots of money.

162. This carried on for about a year but it wasn't every weekend, but maybe every other weekend. They would take me to see the animals at the vet and away for weekends to their caravan in Drummore. They had their own boat as well, which he would go to. Mr [FLF]'s brother had a big fancy house and we would go there for barbeques.

163. They would lavish me with gifts. It was good. Then their nephew, [REDACTED], drove me back to Quarriers in his fancy car, which I loved.

164. After a while, they started taking my sister at weekends as well, and they took us to Drummore at the weekend.

165. When we were at the caravan, I remember my sister saying the bad man got her. I asked her more but she never said anything. Shortly after that, the visits stopped. I never knew why, but I think it was because something happened between my sister and Mr [FLF]. I can't be sure though.

166. Social work tried to get me fostered out but I always told them I didn't want to be fostered because I just remembered always getting hit. I think Mr and Mrs [FLF-SPO] wanted to foster and adopt me, but I didn't want to because I didn't want to leave my sister. Also, my mum had been back in touch and was visiting by then and I didn't want

that to stop. I remember telling social workers that I would go for weekends but that was it.

167. My brother [REDACTED] was also fostered out but had been brought back because his placement didn't work out.

Sexual Abuse – John Porteous

168. I met John Porteous when I was about nine years old and was working at pets' corner with my brothers. That was when I was in cottage 34. He lived near it and I had to report to him. As time went on, he took a shine to me and was like a father figure giving me attention I didn't have. He made me feel good about myself.
169. He was the health and safety, and fire officer within Quarriers. He was also a Boys' Brigade leader so I joined the Boys' Brigade.
170. He was a church elder at the Quarriers church and took me to the bell tower at the church to learn to ring the bells on a Sunday. When I would be standing on the box to ring the bells, we would have to have our arms around each other to ring the bell.
171. The abuse started when I was about eleven years old, in the bell tower when John Porteous asked me to put my hands up his trousers to feel his erection. This started to happen every Sunday.
172. It then moved on to oral sex and then anal sex. There was another wee room in there that had a mattress and Vaseline in it. The first time it happened there, and he lay me down and penetrated me. It was sore the first time then I got used to it.
173. I didn't know that it was wrong. I thought it was right. I had never had any sex education.

174. The abuse started from the age of about eleven, when I was in cottage 34. The majority of it happened when I was in cottage 43 with the QMO/QMP [REDACTED], which was over a year. It then carried on while I was in cottage 36 with the Valentis, until I reported it when I was thirteen years old.
175. Porteous would come looking for me in his red Peugeot and tell me to get in the car and would take me somewhere to have sex. The majority of the time it was in the church or Summerville Hall, but it also happened in other cottages and in his office. He had keys to everywhere in Quarriers.
176. He was always giving me money as well. He would say it was for our secret and not to tell anybody. It would only be fifty pence here and there but I would use it to buy cigarettes.
177. One time, I ran away from cottage 43 after I had been put in the shed by Mr QMO [REDACTED]. I stayed the night with John Porteous in his house, which was behind the pets' corner and across the road from the toy store. We had pre-planned it so I could sleep with him. I wanted to spend the night with him instead of a quick ten minutes. I was about eleven or twelve years old at the time.
178. He lived there with his wife, two boys and two girls, but when I stayed the night, it was just me and him in the house. The kids were with his wife in the cottage where she was doing an overnight stay as a house aunty.
179. We went to Girvan for Boys' Brigade camp. There were about ten boys, John Porteous and another leader, and we stayed in a big house. At night, Porteous would come and get me out of bed and take me to his room, we'd have sex and then I'd go back to my room.
180. One day, while we had been out, I got my leg trapped in some sort of rat trap and it took a big chunk of skin off the back of my leg. The boys were all shouting because I was bleeding. I was taken to hospital before going back to the cottage. I couldn't go

upstairs because my leg was sore, so I slept in Porteous' room with him. I remember he had sex with me that night, even though my leg was sore.

181. The other boys would have known that I was sleeping in his room.
182. I also went to Ireland with John Porteous and another boy called [REDACTED] who lived in the cottage next to mine. It was very weird because I remember going to Ireland on a ferry, and then waking up in the Isle of Man. I don't understand what happened. I can only think I was drugged and I don't know if anything happened to me.
183. We were away for about two weeks and stayed in Ireland with someone who I think was John Porteous' family. Bangor comes to mind so maybe it was there. Then I remember waking up in Isle of Man, where I was with the Irish Boys' Brigade. I don't think John Porteous was even there. I do remember my brother, [REDACTED] being there.
184. I came back to Quarriers from Isle of Man. I remember feeling horrible because I felt really confused about what had happened. I told John Porteous when I got back that I didn't want to go to Ireland again.
185. I befriended a boy called [REDACTED] at Linwood High School and stayed the night with him one night when I was about twelve years old. I told him what was happening with John Porteous and asked if his dad did that to him. He said I needed to tell someone. [REDACTED] told his mum who told me to tell my house parent.
186. It took me about six months after that to tell anyone. The abuse carried on during those six months.
187. I am going to say that I wanted it as much as he wanted it, at that time. I honestly thought that he was going to adopt me and I even asked him to adopt me. He said that he wasn't going to adopt me because he was going to adopt [REDACTED] who was a year older than me and stayed in my cottage.

188. I remember being jealous because I thought that he was doing the same things to [REDACTED] as he was doing to me.
189. I told John Porteous when we were in Summerville Hall that it wasn't happening again. He said it was going to happen, and then he held me down and penetrated me. I can see now that he raped me.
190. I ran home to cottage 36 and ran up to my bed in tears. Isobel Valenti, the house mother, came up and asked me what was wrong. I told her. I was about thirteen years old at the time.
191. Isobel Valenti phoned my mother and told her but also told her not to say anything because she'd get the sack. My mum told me that later in life.

Reporting of abuse at Quarriers

192. After I told Isobel Valenti about John Porteous abusing me, the police turned up from either Paisley or Greenock and took me back to the police station.
193. I was locked in a cell for hours until a doctor came to examine me. I had semen coming out of my bum.
194. The next morning, CID took me to Quarriers and made me take them to all the places that I had had sex with John Porteous. I took them to all the places and they took away things like cloths that Porteous had used to clean up, mattresses, Vaseline and other evidence.
195. The next day, two social workers came to see me and spoke to me. I think one was from Quarriers and one was from Dundee. They asked me a lot of questions and I was very accurate in my answers because I wasn't lying. They told me I wasn't allowed to say anything to anyone or I would get locked up.

196. My mother recently told me that Isobel Valenti, the house parent, phoned and told her what was going on. Then Dundee social workers, Jim Dunsmuir and Dr Stevens, took me to Paisley Police Station. She also said that the two social workers came out and told her I was telling the truth after they had spoken to me.
197. The day after meeting the social workers, I had to go and see the ^{SNR} [REDACTED] ^{QAA} [REDACTED] ^{QAA} [REDACTED] in his office. I went along with Isobel Valenti. When I walked into the office, John Porteous was sitting in the waiting area, so I guessed that he would get interviewed after me.
198. All I remember about that meeting was that I had to stand in the corner of the office and not talk, while ^{QAA} [REDACTED] was shouting at me and calling me a liar. He said if I reported it or told anyone, including my brothers and sisters, that I would be locked up. Isobel Valenti was also in the room.
199. ^{QAA} [REDACTED] told me that I wasn't allowed to go near Porteous, his family or his house, and if I saw him I was to walk in a different direction. I wasn't to have contact with him at all. This didn't make sense because of course I was going to see him at church and driving around.
200. I wasn't then allowed to go to school or leave the house or go and see anyone. This carried on for about four or five months, but it felt like a lifetime to me. I did see John Porteous within Quarriers but there was always people around.
201. Isobel Valenti handled it quite well and took on a more caring role after the abuse came out.
202. I had to see my Quarriers social worker every day who I got on well with. It was a confusing time because I had found out what John Porteous was doing was wrong, but also enjoyed it. I can't remember his name, but I got on well with him. I think everyone was being careful around me now because I had made allegations about Porteous.

203. I was referred to see a psychologist called Jean Morris in Quarriers. She tried to get things out of me but I didn't say anything because I wouldn't have been believed. Then I was taken to Douglas Inch Clinic in Glasgow to get assessed by a psychologist. They spoke to me about the abuse and they were going to recommend where I should be placed to Tayside Regional Council.
204. I was shifted out of Quarriers about five months after reporting John Porteous.
205. Nothing happened to him. I don't think he was even investigated by Quarriers or the police. The evidence was there. I was examined by a police doctor with semen coming out of my backside. I don't understand how nothing happened to him.

Leaving Quarriers

206. Douglas Inch clinic classed me as a maladjusted child and recommended that I be placed in a List G school for kids that they classed as having problems.
207. When I was told that I was to be sent to Lendrick Muir, I said that I wasn't going. They persuaded me to go by telling me it was twenty minutes from my mum's house so I would see her more. That was the reason I agreed to go, but it ended up being two hours from my mum's house so they had lied to me.
208. I didn't really have anything to take away with me. I went to Quarriers with nothing and I left with nothing.
209. Lendrick Muir had given Quarriers a list of things that I needed to take with me, such as a number of pairs of underpants, socks, an anorak and other things. Quarriers got all of these things for me to take with me, and they put my name on everything.

Lendrick Muir List G School, Perth and Kinross

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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Life after being in care

265. I moved back to Glencarse and lived with my mum, step dad, [REDACTED] and my brothers and sisters. [REDACTED] gave me a job in his [REDACTED] shop.

266. I started having a sexual relationship with the boyfriend of a girl who also worked in the [REDACTED] shop. I was sixteen and the guy, [REDACTED] was about 28 years old. He was a nice guy.
267. My mum made a comment one day that she thought [REDACTED] was bisexual and to watch myself. I distanced myself from [REDACTED] and made other friends. [REDACTED] then blackmailed me to have sex with him or he'd tell my mother that we had been doing it.
268. I decided to tell my mum and step dad that I was gay. I was about seventeen or eighteen years old at the time. They packed my bags and put me out on the street. [REDACTED] let me carry on working in the shop but said that I couldn't live there.
269. I moved in with my female friend, [REDACTED] in her caravan.
270. My little brothers were still living with my mum and step dad and told me that he was verbally and physically abusive towards her, usually when he was drunk. I visited and told him not to touch her and took a beating from [REDACTED]
271. I got another job and stopped working for my step dad. I pleaded with my mum to leave him but she wouldn't. That is how my contact with my family stopped when I was about eighteen years old.
272. I met somebody on the gay scene in Dundee, called [REDACTED] We were the same age and we moved to a bed and breakfast in Kirkcaldy together and then to a house he bought in Glenrothes.
273. [REDACTED] and I were together for eight years. Then the police knocked on the door one day asking about sexual abuse during my time in Quarriers, which led to a court case. This was a total shock to me and [REDACTED]
274. I had to open up my heart and tell [REDACTED] everything, which I hadn't up until then. [REDACTED] wasn't able to handle it and he left two weeks later. He let me stay in his house for a while until I got myself sorted.

275. I moved back to Dundee where I knew some people. I moved in with a friend and had to get myself a new job.
276. I started taking drugs and I tried to kill myself, [REDACTED] twice.
277. I eventually met [REDACTED] and got into a relationship with him, and moved into his flat in Dunfermline with him. I got a part time job in a spa and made friends with an older woman called [REDACTED]
278. I hadn't told [REDACTED] about my abuse or the court case that was coming up, which took two years to get to court from when police first knocked on the door.
279. When the case got to court in 2002, I had to tell [REDACTED] and the same thing happened as before. He couldn't handle it and told me he wasn't in love with me anymore.
280. The court case was really hard. I had to face Porteous, his family and the defence lawyer, who ridiculed me. My charges were found not proven.
281. Then I had to go home to [REDACTED] who was having sex with other guys in the house while I was still there. I was about to commit suicide, and [REDACTED] came and stopped me. She got me to move in with her.
282. I got counselling after the trial and then I moved to Edinburgh about fifteen years ago. I got a job and flat shared.
283. I had a few different jobs as a traffic warden and in some discount supermarkets. I am now an assistant manager. I live in a shared flat and I am trying to get help to get my own place.
284. My dog died recently and that hit me really hard. I did worry that I was going to start taking drugs again but I stayed strong.

285. My relationship with my family hasn't been great. When my younger brother [REDACTED] came out as being gay, somehow that was acceptable to my mum and step dad but it hadn't been for me.
286. [REDACTED] is the only one who sends me the odd message. In the last year or two, he encouraged me to get in touch with my mother who was dying. I sent her an email, and she replied. I then phoned her on Christmas day and spoke to her. I am not close to any of them, though.

Reporting of Abuse

287. Twenty years after the abuse by John Porteous, the police knocked on the door. They were investigating Porteous for sexual abuse at Quarriers.
288. The court case was in 2002. I had to go to Glasgow Central Station Hotel before going to court. A woman from CID met me there. I saw other people who were giving evidence against Porteous. There were men and women who were ten or fifteen years older than me. My mind was blown. I wondered why they hadn't spoken up at the time. Maybe if they had then I wouldn't have been abused.
289. I went to Glasgow High Court the following day and gave evidence at the trial.
290. I remember standing outside court having a cigarette as Porteous' family walked past me and they called me names, said I was a liar, and were shouting at me.
291. I had to tell my story again in court. It was the first time I had seen Porteous since I left Quarriers, which was about twenty years ago.
292. When I gave evidence, I remember being ridiculed by the defence lawyer. My brothers had apparently given a letter saying that I was always with Porteous. I hadn't even seen my brothers for many years.

293. The defence lawyer was horrible, and I remember breaking down and was hysterical in the witness room afterwards.
294. When the verdict came out, the CID woman telephoned me to say that the charges relating to me were found to be not proven. I think it was the same for the girls and he was found guilty for two of the other boys, but I'm not sure. She assured me that he was going to prison.
295. I couldn't get my head around how it was not proven for me. They had the evidence from when I originally reported it in Quarriers and to the police. I don't understand why Isobel Valenti, who was the house mother I reported the abuse to in Quarriers, wasn't made to give evidence.
296. The police had come looking for me; I didn't go to them, so they must have had the evidence.
297. I felt deflated after the verdict because I hadn't been believed again. The whole thing was a bad experience for me. I didn't get any support from any agency after the trial.

Impact

298. I have had ear problems since I was a child, with blood and discharge coming out of my ear. I have had many problems as an adult and now can't hear properly in my right ear. I think that was from getting smacked over the ear and head when I was wee.
299. I feel like I have always had to fend for myself, and luckily, I have turned out ok.
Secondary Institutions - to be published later
300. I don't have any trust in relationships. This was more the case when I was in my twenties. It was hard to be open and honest, and I didn't talk about the abuse in my past.

301. The two relationships that I did manage to form were ruined after the police got in touch with me about the abuse in Quarriers. I am now even more guarded with people and struggle to form relationships. I have a barrier up and it is staying up.
302. I wet the bed for my whole childhood, which started again when I was talking about the abuse again after the police contacted me. I also went on a downward spiral and took lots of drugs and tried to commit suicide.
303. I reported my abuse in Quarriers and again twenty years later and I wasn't believed both times. It was bad enough that the charges relating to me were found to be not proven when I gave evidence as an adult. I think if they had been not guilty, I would have tried to commit suicide. I still feel like I have to defend myself because I haven't been believed as a child or in court as an adult.
304. I had a fear that as an adult, I would repeat what had happened to me as a child to others. I had a real fear of that and spoke to my counsellor in Dunfermline about it. Luckily, I am not that way inclined and actually I have a lot of anger inside me against child abuse. My counsellor reassured me about that.
305. I don't have a strong relationship with my family. I am basically on my own. I don't know if that's because we were never kept together. I just wish they had kept us together in one place. I have had to fend for myself my whole life so that's what I will still do.
306. I started having flashbacks recently and I got help by going to see a counsellor.

Records

307. I have my records. I got them from Dundee Social Work and Quarriers. I had to go to Quarriers and get them myself. Helen Holland from INCAS took me to Quarriers to get them.

308. I haven't looked at them too closely because it is quite upsetting and full of jargon. Everything in it was negative about me.

Treatment and Support

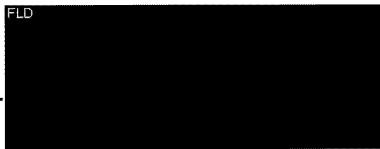
309. I got counselling after the court case. I had to arrange it myself as nobody arranged it for me.
310. I recently had some more counselling, which was arranged through Future Pathways. The counsellor was trying to get me on pills, which I didn't want to do. I had abused drugs before and I didn't want to go down that route again.
311. I was getting on fine with my counsellor until I said something to her about being upset about my dog who was dying. I wanted to spend more time with my dying dog, and she said something about it that I didn't like, so I stopped seeing her.
312. I had a bit of a breakdown recently but that was also because my dog died.
313. I have a support worker called [REDACTED] who I also got through Future Pathways. He is trying to help me find my own place to live because I don't like sharing just now.

Other information

314. I don't understand why the doctors weren't asking more questions about why my ears were bleeding. People should ask more questions when things don't seem right.
315. Abusers could be anywhere, either teaching, in Boys' Brigade or even kids' own parents. Social workers made mistakes and they still do. They need to be better at vetting people who are working with kids.

- 316. I believe there were paedophile rings back then, between Quarriers and Ireland, and that there are still paedophile rings around now. I was groomed by Porteous who had access to everything. People need to be more aware of what these people are doing.
- 317. I didn't know that the sexual abuse was wrong. It kept happening to me. I think it would be good to teach kids what is right and what's wrong when it comes to their bodies.
- 318. I reported my abuse and I wasn't believed. I know what my abuser did to me and he did it to others. Kids need to be believed.
- 319. 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.....

29/9/20