

## Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

IX

Support person present: No

1. My name is IX. My date of birth is 1961. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

### Life before going into care

2. I was born in Possilpark in Glasgow. I have an older brother and a younger sister. My brother was four years older than me. He actually had a different dad so his surname was different. My sister and I had the same parents and she is six years younger. I don't call my parents mum and dad. I called them by their first names but, for the purposes of this statement, I will call them mum and dad.
3. I lived with my parents and my brother before my sister was born, but I don't really remember anything. I was there until I was four. I know my mum took my brother away and left me in the house myself. She would come back and forwards.
4. I used to have nightmares about my mum to do with seeing her on bus. I was always trying to find her and chase her. I think it's because I never had her in my life so it was like I was chasing her. I used to have it all time, even when I stayed with her, I would wake up screaming. She would tell me to shut up because I was going to wake up my dad.
5. I found out from my records that my mum left me at home alone when we lived in Possilpark. I can remember when I was younger, my mum waking me up to tell me

that she was leaving. I wet the bed and she told me just to go back to sleep and lie in the wet bed as she didn't want to wake my dad up.

6. I'd be given off to someone and then go back home. I'd go into care and come back out. I can remember my dad coming to get me from somewhere. He took me to their new house in Paisley.
7. I went into care at Quarriers when I was four. I know I had a foster mother too. I really can't remember the time of things. I know that it was 1965 when I first went into care and that I was there until 1973.

### **Quarriers, Bridge of Weir**

8. I can remember there being a cottage mother. Her name was Miss QJD and she was quite strict with things like being made to eat dinner or go to bed. She wanted me to call her mum but I didn't want to because I had a mum. I just kept saying I've got a mum but I didn't know where she was. I wasn't disrespecting anyone, I just knew I didn't want another mum.

### *Routine at Quarriers*

9. I think I started school when I was in Quarriers. I went to three primaries including the one in Quarriers because I was going in and out.
10. I can't remember the routine or how many kids were there. I remember going to my bed early and waiting for an older girl to come up because I was always scared. I used to cry myself to sleep every night. There was another girl called [REDACTED], it might have been [REDACTED]. She was like a bigger, older sister who looked out for me. I stayed awake until she came into the room so that I knew I could go to sleep. I was in cottage fifteen. I had small duties to do but it was fine. It was just part of being in the house. I didn't speak when I was there.

11. I can remember sitting around a table and sitting in the lounge. I didn't like oily fish once and I can remember Miss <sup>QJD</sup> saying I had to go to bed. It was fish and milk. I thought that's what people did. We didn't have meals at home. My mum didn't cook. I think I felt secure there because it was more family orientated especially at mealtimes. There was no abuse there. Miss <sup>QJD</sup> was strict but it was a kind of nurturing.
12. I can remember Miss <sup>QJD</sup> taking me somewhere to get clothes. I didn't know at the time they were second-hand but it was so good having more than one pair of pants.
13. Miss <sup>QJD</sup> used to cut my toenails and it was agony. I've had problems with my toenails ever since. I have some memories of being there like learning to brush my teeth when I was at the Rosebuds, and having a Halloween party there. You went to Rosebuds before you went to Brownies. It was in the hall in Quarriers. I remember going on a bus trip and I was sick.
14. I can remember getting things at Christmas because I hadn't had them before. We had lockers in the playroom. I think it was the first Christmas I'd ever had toys. I can remember getting things and thinking it was brilliant. I used to go swimming there too. My dad used to take me swimming all the time but he had his reasons for that. He would take me and go into the mixed pool.
15. Another time I was out with the older ones. I was running and I fell and banged my head. I was put into the hospital in Quarriers. I remember Miss <sup>QJD</sup> came to see me in the hospital. I felt better when I saw her because I knew her. I had a big mark on my head. I think they kept me in there as a precaution to make sure nothing was damaged.
16. There was an Auntie there too, called Auntie Margaret. She helped Miss <sup>QJD</sup> with the dinners and things. Later as an adult, I got in touch with Quarriers on their website and she spoke to me. She told me she remembered me. There was a photograph of a few kids standing in a group. I thought I was in the photo but it was someone else. I hung onto the idea it was me for a long time.

17. I haven't got any photos of me when I was a child. When I was older, my dad ripped up all my photos. There weren't any photos of me up in the house. There were photos of my brother. I was the Jonah and always a jinx to them. I was their first-born.
18. My dad used to give me a pound and Miss QJD [REDACTED] took it from me and banked it. Once, my mum came to get me at primary school and brought a TSB bank book with her. The book was mine. I had to cash in the money in the book and hand it over to my mum.

*Foster Care* – [REDACTED]

19. I had a foster mother too while I was there. She was called [REDACTED]. I have no idea how many times I went to stay with her. My foster mother told me that I was just this wee lassie who she wanted to adopt. She told me that I was four when she met me. I don't really remember much about the time span. She wrote on a postcard to my dad and asked if she could keep me rather than me going in and out all the time.
20. She gave a lot of furniture to Quarriers because she was moving to a smaller house. I think she had befriended my cottage mother. I don't know if she had taken other kids. I remember singing Ten Green Bottles in the car with her. I can remember going to her house for the first time and seeing photos of her and a man. I asked where he was and she said he wasn't there anymore. After she asked if she could adopt me, my dad took me out of there straight away. I don't know where she stayed.
21. I got back in contact with [REDACTED] when I was about 21. She came to Ayr to see me. When I met her, I felt tall because she was so tiny. I have photos of her. She was a big influence on my life. She has passed now. She used to pick me up at Quarriers. She told me one time I refused to get in her car because there were other weans there. She was driving away down the path and she came back for me. I always have that memory.

22. My sister went into Quarriers once. She was about eighteen months old. I can remember she had wet herself. I can remember telling her she was okay and calming her because she was crying. That was the only time she was in care. She went into the baby unit in Quarriers. They split us up. I went back into cottage fifteen. I used to go through and see her. I remember I couldn't get in one time, I was looking through the glass and I couldn't get in because one of the kids had measles. I can remember looking at her through the glass and feeling upset.
23. After that, my sister and my brother stayed with my parents. They weren't in care. I have never called my brother, my half- brother. I always called him my brother. I think I always resented my brother because it was my mum and dad and he was the one living in the house. I always felt like a problem child. I think I must have done something or something must have happened to make them treat me the way they did.
24. Through the Quarriers years, my dad used to come and get me at the weekends and take me back home. Miss <sup>QJD</sup> used to ask me if my dad had been swearing at me. I used to say no. There was a parrot called Polly who stayed in the playroom at Quarriers. She used to swear so Miss <sup>QJD</sup> would say that she knew. I don't know how she knew that my dad swore at me. Nobody did anything to help, maybe it's because I was a problem child so she just wanted rid of me for the weekend. I didn't run away from Quarriers. I was too young to think about running away.

### **Leaving Quarriers**

25. My dad came and got me because him and my mum had got back together. I'm not sure what age I was but I think I was still primary school age. I went to Williamsburgh Primary in Paisley and South Primary. I went back to live with my parents.



## **Living back at home**

26. After Quarriers, I always felt like the odd one out and that I wasn't wanted. It never felt like home. I was always the one who got punished. My dad was really violent to me. He used to get me down on the ground and kick me. He would put chairs on me. It was never just a slap. He would come home in a bad mood and take it out on me. His pals have dragged him off me.
27. The police were called out. I think my mum even phoned the police once or twice because it was so bad. I used to beg them not to take me back there but they did. He would tell them that he wouldn't hit me but they would hardly be away and he'd have the leather belt out. It was like a power trip.
28. When my mum was away, my dad used to let me wear lipstick and to be like the wee woman in the house. When my mum came back, one time he wasn't home, so I put tights on and lipstick on, my dad came home and slapped me across the face and told me to take them off. He called me a whore. I was only in primary school.
29. My pal's dad touched my leg once in the park and I just got up and ran away, I didn't go near the house again. I was older then and I just knew. I wasn't stupid. I didn't tell anyone about that.
30. I started running away when I was twelve or thirteen. I used to sleep rough in the streets. I would rather have done that than stay with my parents. I used to run away to my mum's sister-in-law's house.

## *The Children's Panel*

31. After I started running away, I was sent to the children's panel in Paisley on Canal Street. I had a few social workers but I can't remember any of their names. My mum used to say one of them looked like the actress in the film Born Free. I think she was a bit jealous of the social workers because of the way my dad acted towards them. He used to be very flattering towards people and used to charm my social workers. I knew

people wouldn't believe me about him so it felt pointless to try telling anyone what he was doing to me.

- 32. The panel asked me some questions but they never did what I thought was best. They decided that I was 'out of parental control'. I can't remember being asked what I wanted to happen. I didn't realise that I was going to be put into care. I was sent to Cathkin House in Rutherglen.

**Cathkin House, Rutherglen, South Lanarkshire**

- 33. I was thirteen years old when I went to Cathkin House. Secondary Institutions - to be published later



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36. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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### Leaving Cathkin House

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

I was in Cathkin House for some of first year and some of second year at school. I went to Stanely Green school when I was home. I don't think I was there for a year. I also went to a truant school in Elderslie. I went to Cathkin High and then Firhill in Edinburgh. Then I was in the education part at Langlands Park. The truant school was a waste of time as it was a lot of badly behaved kids together.

### Living back at home

46. After I left Cathkin House, I was in the waiting room to see a doctor at the Royal Alexandria hospital. I was unwell with bronchitis. My mum gave me a wee brown bottle of tablets and told me to take them all. She told me to keep taking the tablets to I took them. I was about thirteen.
47. My mum told the doctor I had taken an overdose. I didn't tell the doctors she gave me them. I had to have my stomach pumped. I was taken to Hawkhead Hospital. I can remember my dad came to the hospital to see me but I told the staff that I didn't want

to see him. I had to pretend it to him that I wasn't allowed to see him or I would have been beaten when I went home.


48. I was seen by psychologists. I was asked to draw pictures of my family but I wasn't asked why I was unhappy or why I was unhappy in the homes. My dad could charm the birds off the tree so it was a losing battle anyway.

49. I don't know if I went home when I was discharged from hospital. I think I did go home before going to Mathara Hostel. I went back to parent's house. One day a doctor came to the house to check on me. I was black and blue from head to toe. My dad went into the kitchen. My mum told me to show the doctor, Dr Glen, my bruises. I was covered in belt marks. Nothing was done. I don't even remember if she took notes.

#### **Mathara House, Dennistoun, Glasgow**

50. I was running away and had taken a overdose, so I ended up going to Mathara Hostel.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later



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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

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### **Leaving Mathara House**

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Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

I was taken to the convent, the Good Shepherd, in Edinburgh.

### **The Good Shepherd, Edinburgh**

55. I think one of the social workers took me there. My sister and my mum came to visit me there. One of the nuns who wasn't very nice was cuddling them and being all nice. I remember thinking she wasn't like that at all. One of the nuns was nice and she bought me a lovely yellow cardigan. I don't remember ever having things so that is a nice memory I have. I would go into pal's houses and think I wished I lived there.

56. I wasn't a religious person but I was brought up a Protestant so I don't know why I was sent there, probably because it was further away from home. It wasn't compulsory to go to mass on a Sunday.
57. I went to Firhill School. I was getting stuck into maths because I had a good teacher. I got moved a class and I didn't want to go after that so I used to run away. I would run away in the middle of the night. I would ask someone to open the door and lock it behind you so the nuns wouldn't find out. They would probably go and tell the nuns because the police would find you in no time.

### **Abuse at The Good Shepherd**

58. I remember one time the police stopped me at about four o'clock in the morning and took me back. Sister ILY [REDACTED] was looking out the window. I knew she wasn't happy. That was the night she was verbally abusive and told me I would be standing on street corners and that I wouldn't amount to anything. It was horrible because I already felt that way anyway and felt dirty.
59. The one social worker who came to visit me while I was in Edinburgh told me that my mum and dad didn't want me to go back home.
60. I hurt my back when I was there. They sent me to the hospital in Edinburgh, examined my back and gave me painkillers. I was back to the convent late. I had a good, valid reason for being late and I showed them the painkillers. Sister ILY [REDACTED] and Sister IKW [REDACTED] made me sleep in a chair with the window jammed open. I had to sleep in that all night. My back was in agony. Sister ILY [REDACTED] hit me on the back as I was walking to go through to where I was to go in the dorm. She hit me and said, "Get back to where you belong". I decided I wasn't staying there. I went straight out the door. I got to Paisley because they gave you your dinner money, so I used that for the train. The police took me back.



61. When I ran away from The Good Shepherd, the nuns punished me. They made me drink salt water when I felt sick once. Sister ILY [REDACTED] was horrible. Sister Dominic was nice. She ended up leaving the convent. I think she lives in Sunderland now.

### **Leaving The Good Shepherd**

62. I was in The Good Shepherd for about a year. I started running away again. I wasn't doing anything bad. I went back to my parents. When I was fourteen, I ran away and I never went back to The Good Shepherd. I was never dismissed from The Good Shepherd, or any of the other places I stayed.

### **Living back at home**

63. At some points social work or the police came and looked for me. My parents would say I wasn't there and they left. I couldn't understand why my parents didn't get on with me. One day I phoned Miss QJD [REDACTED] when parents were away out. I phoned her to tell her that I didn't want to be at home. When they came back, I told my mum that I phoned her but she didn't seem to mind. Nothing happened after I phoned Miss QJD [REDACTED]. I don't know if she could do anything about it.

### **Abuse at home**

64. One time my dad cut my hair off. I was about fourteen or fifteen. I had hair down to my waist. I came home late one night, he grabbed all my hair and cut it off with scissors right up to my ears. He told me to "sit in the fucking chair" I can still remember the noise of the first hair being cut. I rebelled against that and cut the rest of it off. My friend came to the house and I showed her. I think he was trying to keep me from going out. It was a punishment.

65. If I was hanging around with boys, I was called a “whore” or if I had a female friend, I was a “lesbian”. He was always that way inclined. He was a dirty minded person. I don’t know why he cut my hair, I think that was really barbaric. It was noticeable. I couldn’t even go to the hairdressers because I didn’t have any money. The social worker didn’t ask about it. I didn’t have to tell anyone about my hair because they could see it.
66. I found out that my dad beat his sister when they were younger and made her strip naked. He used to humiliate me in front of my pals. He would say something to me to go and make dinner. I said, “Okay” but he took off his belt and cracked it. I got upset and I said, “Please don’t.” He made me beg and get upset in front of my friend. I lived with the humiliation and being brought down a lot of the time. He was never interested in fixing things with me. I tried so hard to build a relationship with them. They weren’t interested.
67. I used to sleep in a close off Canal Street in Paisley. I had a few places. I am terrified of spiders so I don’t know I managed to do it. I can’t imagine myself sleeping outside now. It was like survival. I was almost feral when I look back.

#### **Langlands Park, Port Glasgow**

68. I went back to the children’s panel and social work said I was ‘out of parental control’. The social worker took me to Langlands Park. It was a residential secure unit. The social worker told me I was being taken for a look around it but, of course, I was left there. One of the girls there opened the door and spoke to me. I kicked off but I didn’t get upset because I didn’t want to embarrass myself in front of the other lassies. There were lassies with addiction issues, like glue, in there. I hadn’t really done anything, apart from running away, to be in there. The uniform was a shirt with a pleated skirt. The shirt was a white blouse. It had wee cars all over it.



69. They used to get me up in the morning and make me scrub floors before breakfast. That was what we did. Recently, I met a girl who said she had bad knees from scrubbing the floors.
70. I didn't like it because there was always a threat of violence there. SNR was really strict. I think his name was MSH and he was Welsh. There was a fear he was going to batter you with the cane. He had it at assembly. It was long. He did to that to other girls. I think one of the lassies had sniffed glue. I hated it there. It was terrifying.
71. I did Meals on Wheels while I was there. I used to go into Greenock and Port Glasgow. I would go into the place and give out the meals to the old people. I loved that and really enjoyed it. I went to a community centre to see handicapped people. I think it maybe gave me the incentive to do that when I was older.
72. I didn't realise it was a secure unit until later. They locked the doors. Some of the staff were okay, they would take you for a walk to the cemetery or give you a cigarette to have at the cemetery. They would come in with a tin of cigarettes and it would have your name on the side of the fag. You got three fags a day.
73. I was left in there a lot myself at the weekends. I used to sit in the hall with the record player on. I would listen to the Cliff Richard song *The Next Time* and think, "the next time I run away" but the staff didn't know that. I was running away all the time. I put myself at risk so many times.
74. Someone came from the Daily Record to see what it was like in Langlands Park. They took our photos for some reason.
75. There was a wee flat in there that you could go in and learn how to do stuff. They moved me up to the flat because I was well behaved for a while. The threat of being punished was always there. I didn't give myself a chance to get to know people. I maybe shouldn't have run away so much. I just thought I was protecting myself at the

time. No one ever asked why I wanted to sleep on the street rather than be at home or be in care.

76. I didn't have contact with my parents during this time. I used to write letters to my sister sometimes. My dad would try to open the letters but my mum told him that he could go to jail because it was the Royal Mail. I always kept in touch with my sister and was always trying to keep her safe. I used to go in between her and my dad, rather than her getting it, I would take it.

### **Leaving Langlands Park**

77. I went on the run for nine months when I was fifteen. By that time, I had met my son's dad, he was sixteen. We'd been pals when we were younger. We both had jobs and got a flat. It was a bedsit. I worked in an Asian shop and in a car wash. My mum knew where I lived. The social workers were looking for me. The police found me in my partner's mum and dad's house in Paisley. I heard them at the door and my first thought was to jump out the kitchen window and run but I just went with them. I decided it was better to face up to it.
78. I was in Tollcross Assessment Centre for the weekend. I waited the whole weekend in there and went to the panel on the Monday morning. The panel told me I could get out.
79. I didn't go back to Langlands Park but I was put on probation. I got engaged a few days before my sixteenth birthday. My dad tried to stop it but I knew it was the only way I could get out of the house. I think I jumped out of the frying pan and into the fire but it was the only way out at the time.

## Life after being in care

80. I was six months married and three months pregnant when I went back to my parents. My husband was going out and cheating on me and I decided to leave. My son's dad emotionally blackmailed me to go back so I went back. I got married before I turned eighteen. I only stayed with my parents for a short time.
81. I wasn't taught anything about motherhood. I didn't bring my son up all the time. I went to stay with my brother, with my son as I needed to get away from my ex-husband. He was a crackpot. My brother and his wife told me that they would look after my son. I went to Birmingham and, behind my back, they tried to adopt him.
82. I came home and apparently my brother and his wife had told him that I was dead. He told me that he had written me a letter saying he loved me and my brother's wife found it. She thought it was for her and he said it was for me. She battered him and told him she was his mum. I used to think they were punishing him for her problems with me.
83. When my son was about four, he ended up being put in foster care and I took the social work department to court. He kept running away and looking for me. I used to come to visit him and take him out from his foster home. I really wanted to meet my son's foster family, I think because I had been in care and I wanted to know that the people he was staying with were alright.
84. I would love to have run away with him but I knew it wasn't the answer. I got my son back when he was about eleven. I missed a lot of years with him and important things like him starting school. Sometimes he mentions being in foster care and it brings it back and it's hard to hear.
85. My parents weren't interested in my grandkids. I once told my mum that she didn't need to know. I loved my granddaughter and grandson and I couldn't understand why they didn't love them. Everybody compliments me on my grandchildren. I tell them not to talk to anybody and try to protect them.

86. I worked as a Social Care worker for fourteen years. I started off working voluntarily working in the children's hospital in Birmingham. When I worked as a Social Care Officer with disabled people, my dad used to say, "How can she do that job?" I worked with the elderly in care homes. I loved all the residents and the staff. None of my employers knew that I was going through a court case when I was trying to get my son back. I always tried to keep my personal and work life separate.
87. I was very ill with cancer about ten years ago. My mum only came to visit me once. I was seriously ill with an infection and needed to have a major operation but she left the hospital and didn't bother coming back.
88. While I was in hospital, the nurses were always checking on me and wanted to make sure I was okay. One time, the doctor came to give me an examination. I was in so much pain that I was screaming. I have never been so looked after or cared for in my life. I was in there for about five and a half weeks. They gave me a wee room to myself. I had severe Obsessive Compulsive Disorder at that time so they gave me a wee room to myself and I couldn't eat or drink anything from the hospital. It was the only time I have felt cared for in my life.
89. One day, about twenty years ago, I was visiting my parents and my dad said, "I don't know how [REDACTED] can still speak to us after all we did to her." My mum said she hadn't done anything, but she did because she knew what he was doing to me. I don't even feel related to my brother and my sister.
90. When my mum was dying, she was in hospital for eight months but nobody phoned me to tell me. I went to see her in the coffin. My brother and my sister were there. I just looked at her and asked her, "What was it, did you not like me?" I went to her funeral and I'd wished I hadn't. I kept thinking, "Why didn't you contact me for all those years?" I just felt like why didn't she come to see me or come back to see me while I was in hospital?
91. I just wanted them to love me. Even when I was older, I wanted them to show me a little something. I think it was their guilt that kept them away from me. My mum used



to always say she felt really guilty. I used to visit my dad when he was old. He lived in a pigsty and I cleaned all his house. My counsellor told me that I wasn't seeing him as an abuser that I was only seeing an old person and it was the caring side of me.

### **Impact**

92. My experiences still have an effect on my life. I don't like being around a lot of people. I wouldn't say that I have friends. I have acquaintances. I don't think I've made any close bonds with anyone. I think that's because I didn't stay around long enough. I have a housemate. She was a good support to me when I was ill. I resent people and think, "Why did you have a happy childhood?" I used to watch pals with their dads and think how lucky they were. I didn't have that kind of relationship or chance to be. Nobody said, "Stop moving her about." It was unfamiliar circumstances everywhere I went.
93. My son's life was a bit up and down and it spoiled my relationship with him for a few years. I have a brilliant relationship with my son now and my grandchildren. They are my life. I always felt guilty. He doesn't know any of this. I have thought about explaining everything to him. I tried my best. I was so desperate to get away from my home life that I went into another situation.
94. I almost joined Hare Krishna because they were nice to me. I didn't commit myself to it but I was always looking to be a part of something, to fit in and belong to something. I wasn't a Catholic but I'd pass the chapel and go in and say a prayer. I'd be sobbing and begging God to help me. I felt a comfort from it.
95. I went through a spell where I couldn't leave the house. I stayed in my house for weeks on end and I would pretend to people that I had been out. I'm frightened of the dark which, I think, relates to my time in care and my past. I spent a lot of time staying up until I heard people going to work and the buses because then I could go to sleep. I didn't feel safe when I lived on my own.

96. I have Obsessive Compulsive Disorder so, for example, everything in my house has to be perfect. I hate going out with my bed unmade. I clean because it distracts me. Someone once told me I was institutionalised. I hate people reaching their own conclusions based on me being in care.
97. I saw a doctor about it who gave me coping techniques with breathing and how to relax. I saw her for a long time. She was one of the head psychologists at the Ailsa hospital. We had telephone consultations as well. I was discharged when the doctor went on maternity leave. My doctor told me I suffered from complex trauma. It's like one trauma after another. I sometimes feel like I am cold hearted or switched off to people and don't feel what other people feel.
98. I think I have always had a problem with trust because I was never able to trust anyone when I was young. It was all female social workers and I think they were taken in by my dad. They sat in the house and chatted. It was as if they were visiting my dad. They didn't pay attention to what was happening in the house. They never took you to a different room to speak to them. I didn't have the opportunity to speak to anyone in the house in private. I think he manipulated everyone, even the police. He was able to convince them that no harm would come to me but I was telling the police that he would leather me.
99. I haven't had a relationship for a long time. People have asked me out over the years but I have said no. I had a male friend who would phone me up all the time. He said, "Love you" on the phone and I said it back by accident. I phoned him back to tell him that I hadn't meant to say it. I can't trust anyone because they can change like a switch and it takes me back. The only person I have told that I love is my son. I tell him, "You have no idea how much I love you."
100. I think about my time in care sometimes if I'm speaking to someone. It triggers memories, especially when you see other people and watch other people's relationships. I tried my best to have a closeness with my own family but it was like banging my head off a brick wall.



101. I got married to try to get away from the care system and probation but didn't work out. I haven't moved for a while and it is the longest I have lived anywhere. People think I'm confident but they don't know how I feel. [REDACTED]

102. I don't have one picture of me when I was young. It's horrible not having photographs of myself. I would love to know if my grandchildren look like me when I was young. I want to make memories with my grandchildren. I don't have those memories of my mum and dad. It was rubbish and they were rubbish parents.

103. I have had problems with my both my small toenails ever since Miss QJD [REDACTED] cut them. They give me a lot of pain and I take painkillers. I go to the podiatrist who says it also could be due to wearing second shoes when I was a child.

#### **Treatment/support**

104. The psychologist I spoke to really helped. I told her things that I hadn't told anybody. She didn't view me the way I see myself even though I told her things. I feel horrible and dirty because the things that happened when I was younger. I wouldn't be able to cope if my son knew about some things in my past. I appreciate my life after being unwell. I want to enjoy my life now with the people I care about. I would like to tell my son about my time in care but I just don't feel ready.

#### **Reporting of Abuse**

105. I have never reported anything to the police.

**Records**

106. I have my records from my time at Quarriers. I don't have records from any of the other places.

**Revisits**



107. I went back again to Quarriers when I was older. I chapped the door of cottage fifteen. I asked if I could see inside and the woman let me in. I wanted to see the boot room. It was all different so I just looked in the door. It was overwhelming.

**Lessons to be Learned**

108. I think people in those roles have to pick up on things that something is wrong with a child. If someone had done that with me all those years ago then I might have done something more meaningful with my life. I think it's important to listen and to pay attention to the children. If a child is doing something disruptive, it is normally because they are trying to get something out. People didn't listen to me. They weren't interested. I tried in different ways to show them something was wrong but it just didn't happen. I don't think the children really mattered during my time.

109. I would like to get closure. I would like for people to be aware that, just because people have a label as a social worker or a headmaster, it doesn't make them a nice person.

110. 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  07/12/22.....