

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

EZM

Support person present: No

1. My name is EZM. As a child in care I was also known as EZM. My date of birth is 1967. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I was born in the old Thornhill Hospital in Johnstone.

Quarriers Village, Bridge of Weir

3. I first went into Quarriers in 1969. My earliest memory is when I was two and a half years old but I didn't know I was in a home because nobody told me. I was there until I was fourteen apart from a two year period when I was fostered.
4. There were three baby homes in Quarriers Village and I was in these first. They were outside the gates of Quarriers and across from the hospital. Two of them were called Campbell Maltman and Campbell Snowdon. I can't remember the name of the other one. I think I was in the end one first and when I was a toddler I was moved into the other one where was as well. I think someone came to the home and took me and out because we were inseparable. When we were moved from the baby homes and I were put in different cottages.
5. There was a church, a school, a hospital, a doctor's surgery, a clothes store, a laundry, a sports centre and a swimming pool in Quarriers Village. It was a really

beautiful place and it had huge grounds which were also beautiful. There were 42 cottages but you very rarely saw people from the other ones because not everybody was allowed to go out and play.

6. There could be up to sixteen people in a cottage and sometimes eighteen. The children aged from babies up to age sixteen or older. There were a couple of big families in Quarriers. Around each cottage there was a fence and you weren't supposed to go outside it most of the time. A cottage mother and father were in charge of each cottage but sometimes there was just a cottage mother.
7. I was split up from my siblings when we went in because they were older and went straight in to a cottage when I went to the baby homes. I didn't go into their cottage until I was four. As a toddler I was in cottage 41. LRE [REDACTED] was my social worker when I was a baby and when I moved to cottage 41. Liz Maloney was my social worker subsequently. They were both based in Quarriers.
8. There was a house mother and father in cottage 41 but I have blocked out their names. I always seemed to be kept away from the other children in the cottage. I remember the man and woman having sex in their bedroom and I was present. The man was doing things to the woman and then he was doing things to me. I was in bed with them. He was lying on top of me and he touched me. I remember this happening a couple of times but I was really young. The man also used to make me brush his hair.
9. I moved to cottage fifteen because I was going to be starting school. My sibling came, said I was going to cottage fifteen and took me there. I didn't know who my siblings were because I had been away from them for two years and I didn't really understand. I was in cottage fifteen until I was fostered. It was run by EZN [REDACTED] EZN [REDACTED]. She was originally the cottage auntie but took over as the cottage mother. I was the youngest in the house and the children went up to age sixteen.
10. There were usually more boys than girls in my cottage. It was a huge building like a mansion. The cottage ground floor had a kitchen, the cottage mother's living room,

another living room, a playroom with an adjoining cloakroom which joined onto a toilet with a shower and a bath, a row of sinks and another toilet. Upstairs were bedrooms, the cottage mother's toilet, her bedroom and a spare bedroom.

11. We were only allowed to use the bathroom upstairs at night. You weren't allowed to go back upstairs once you came down in the morning. There could be from four to eight in a bedroom, depending on who was in the cottage at the time and boys and girls slept separately. I was moved around quite a bit and this caused me problems with sleeping later in life.
12. You weren't allowed to go into some of the rooms inside the cottage. You were only allowed into the playroom and the shed. Most of your time was spent in the back shed which was a big concrete shed and was freezing. It had two toilets and a shower.
13. Mrs Wilson came in during the day to help with the cleaning. We were at school so we rarely saw her. She lived in Kilmacolm and she was really nice. She used to make tablet.
14. Some of the children had parents and went home at weekends. I think the children who didn't have anybody to go home to were abused more.
15. The four people who ran Quarriers and dealt out the discipline if the cottage mother needed their help were John Mortimer, the director, John Porteus, Bill Dunbar and GBZ. They would give you an absolute rollicking. Bill Dunbar was underneath Mortimer. He was in the office but he was also a cottage father at number four. I was sent to John Mortimer once for running away.

Routine at Quarriers Village

First memory

16. My first memory is of being stood up against a fence to have a photograph taken and I wasn't too happy about it because I was crying. It upset me that we were pulled away from playing to have the photograph taken.

Mornings and bedtime

17. We got up at 7am. ^{EZN} shouted, the doors were flung open, the lights switched on and the curtains pulled back. We got dressed and then washed downstairs. We had breakfast and then did chores before we went to school. After school we came back to the cottage, had tea, did homework and then I was sent to bed at 5pm. Once you were upstairs to bed you weren't allowed to go back downstairs.

Mealtimes / Food

18. I got cereal in the morning. It was somebody's job to put out all the bowls at night, put one cup of cereal into each bowl and then put the side plate on top, so it was all ready for the morning. We also got bread and jam for breakfast.
19. The food was terrible. I couldn't eat the potatoes and the stews. I hid it in the pocket of my pinny. ^{EZN} made the food but she couldn't cook. If you didn't eat your food, you were physically forced to eat it and anything you didn't eat you were given at the next meal, then the next meal and then the next morning for breakfast. If you still didn't eat it then ^{EZN} put it in the bin and you were grounded. I saw children being sick and they were forced to eat their vomit. When we got older ^{EZN} said if we didn't like the food we could have bread and jam so we lived on that a lot.
20. When I was young ^{EZN} physically forced me to eat but when I was older, maybe about seven, she would give the food to me for my next meal. I would be put to bed

without any food at all some days and I was starving. I had to drink the water out of the tap upstairs just to try and fill my stomach up. I couldn't sleep because I was hungry. I was malnourished for years because I didn't eat the food in Quarriers and I have had issues with food ever since.

Washing / bathing

21. When I was really young I was bathed in the kitchen sink by EZN. It was a big double stainless steel sink and it was like a conveyer belt for washing babies. After lunch you had to line up in a queue and EZN had a hot cloth which she scrubbed your face with until it was red raw. Then you brushed your teeth and went back to school.
22. There was a bath and a shower. We had a bath or a shower on a Sunday and we had to wash in the sinks although there were only three or four of them for sixteen of us. There was no privacy in the showers as boys and girls used the same shower facilities. They also had to use the same bath, toilets and sinks. There was a line of towels.
23. You were encouraged to clean your teeth. You lined up and EZN stood over you, making sure you were doing it properly. The discipline was unbelievable.

Clothing / uniform

24. You had three sets of clothes which were supplied by the draper's store in Quarriers, your school uniform, your Sunday clothes and your out to play clothes. All of your clothes including your socks and pants had your name on them and we all wore the same. I sometimes wore somebody else's hand me downs.
25. All the dirty clothes went in a big white nylon bag and they were put at the end of the drive where they were picked up by a white van and taken to the laundry in Quarriers. Some of them may have gone out to be laundered but I don't know about

that. They were delivered back to the cottage and put into your drawer which had your name on it. In later years the laundry was done in the individual cottages.

School

26. We started school at 9am. We left at 12pm and went back to the cottage for dinner. We went back to school at 1pm and finished at 4.30pm.
27. The school was in the grounds of Quarriers. It was strict and I learned a lot but I had problems because they didn't teach me quickly enough. They said I was being disruptive but I was bored. I was too clever for the class so I got moved up two years. The teachers disciplined by giving you the belt. I dropped my book one day and I got two of the belt and then I was marched to the headmaster's office.
28. There was a school photograph taken every year.

Leisure Time

29. When not at school you had to go out and play whether you wanted to or not. You weren't allowed back in the cottage from 9am until dinner time at 11.45am. You were then put back out and not allowed back in until tea time. This happened whether it was raining, snowing or freezing. You could go into the shed but not the cottage. **EZN** just wanted you out of her road every day. At age seven I was walking into Kilmacolm and Bridge of Weir and playing in rivers and burns.
30. Some children in the other cottages weren't allowed out at all and we only saw the children at school.
31. On a Wednesday we had to go swimming. Every cottage had to learn how to swim so three cottages went together for lessons. You could use the pool on a Saturday morning but I stopped going even though I loved it because Mr **QKW** shoved me into the pool when I was five or six so I was scared of him.

32. GBZ was in charge of the sports centre. He was a bully and rule by fear. A lot of the children were scared of him.
33. Mr GCO was a cottage father. He took us for cricket and some other sports. He was touchy feely and made me feel uncomfortable so I refused to participate in his sports.

Religion

34. We went to church every Sunday at 11am and we had to wear our Sunday best clothes. Sunday was like a military operation. We were marched down the road to church one after the other. At a certain time during the service all the little ones would go out to Sunday school which was run by John Porteus who was the church warden and the older ones stayed in church. When you came back from church you got your dinner and then you had to go into the playroom and sit and read the bible. You weren't allowed to play. At 2pm we were taken for a five mile walk. The older children attended a second church service at 6pm.
35. The main things in Quarriers were cleaning and religion. Cleanliness came next to religion which was the highest one in the order. We had to say prayers before every meal and kneeling on the landing in a group before bed.

Chores

36. EZN gave me OCD because of her attitude to cleaning. There was a list on the wall and everybody's name was on it beside what job they had to do. These were allocated weekly. Chores included washing pots, washing the dishes, drying the dishes, drying the cutlery, polishing all the shoes, cleaning the floors, bringing in the coal and putting out the breakfast for the next morning. I didn't assist in the preparation of food and I couldn't cook when I left care.

Pocket Money

37. When I was older I was given three five pences on a Saturday but my sibling took mine off me and gave me three two pences instead. You weren't allowed to eat the sweeties you bought from the ice cream van, which parked near the draper's, until after dinner on a Saturday so **EZN** battered me and put me to bed because she thought I was eating all my sweets. When I got older I realised what was happening with the money.

Trips / Holidays

38. We went to Turnberry. Mr **████████** was a millionaire and he had houses at Turnberry next to the hotel so we, as a cottage, stayed there for two weeks. **EZN** went with us and it was good. We also went to Aberdeen and camped in the church hall. We went to Girvan to a cottage owned by Quarriers. We travelled by coach and all the cottages got away. Your cottage was painted while you were away and any repairs carried out. Your bed might get moved to another room.

Birthdays and Christmas

39. At Christmas they put all the presents in a room and the door was locked. I think the presents were donated. On Christmas morning after breakfast you all lined up and **EZN** unlocked the door. I was disappointed one year because I loved music and wanted a radio but I was given a plastic Fisher Price record player instead. I took it apart to see how it worked. We went to church and we had a Christmas dinner.
40. The drapers was all set out with tables covered in things you could buy to give your family but I didn't have any family to buy for or any money so I couldn't buy anything. They gave me something for my siblings and for the cottage mother.
41. You got a cake on your birthday and sometimes were allowed to invite a friend to tea.

Visits

42. The Somerville Hall was a big drill hall and beside it there was another place set up like a youth club. There was a pool table and table tennis. I went there sometimes on a Saturday with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] for juice and crisps and then back to the cottage. Then I started going to stay with them for the weekend. They picked me up on a Friday and brought me back on a Sunday. I liked them but I always felt people were trying to get rid of me.
43. I'm not sure how long this went on. When I started going to stay with them they didn't have any children but then Mrs [REDACTED] got pregnant and had a son. Then they decided to move abroad and I was told I wouldn't be seeing them again. I found out they were killed in a car accident in later years because I tried to get in touch with them.
44. My siblings also had visitors and they were fostered and then adopted.
45. Jim Newlands was my external social worker but he didn't visit very often. He was based at Craigielea House. He would only visit if my siblings or me were considered to have caused trouble and [REDACTED] had phoned to get him to come and talk to them but he rarely spoke to me.
46. When official visitors came you were in your Sunday best and the place would shine for a week. We were warned not to say anything to them. Once a year there was an open day and lots of people would visit the cottages.

Healthcare

47. There was a dentist in Quarriers and we saw him every year. We also had a medical. [REDACTED] was responsible for first aid. A boy once shoved me down a chute when I was four years old and I was badly injured. Following the accident [REDACTED] cut all my hair off because she said it was matted with blood. I still don't like anybody touching my hair. She told me to stay in the shed and stand at the sink because I was bleeding.

48. This was before I started school and when I had my first school photograph taken my nose was still misshapen and scraped. I have had to have operations to correct this because I didn't have the proper medical treatment at the time. I have had a bone sticking out of my nose all my life.

Running away

49. My sibling told me I had a mother and a father and I couldn't settle after that so I ran away all the time. I was running away to try and find out where they were. I was also running away because I was sick of the abuse by ^{EZN} ██████████. Sometimes I got as far as Paisley. Somebody would come out in the minibus, find me and drag me back to Quarriers. Then I would jump out the window or go out of the fire exit and run away again. When I went back, ^{EZN} ██████████ battered me and threw me in the shed at the back. She usually hit me on the back of the head. She hit me with the slipper on my bottom and up my back. Sometimes she hit me with her hand and I was left with bruises in the shape of handprints.
50. From about age nine I spent a lot of years on the run. I was running away for up to two weeks before anybody found me. I went through the fields to the Kilmacolm area and they went the other way to look for me. I was never asked by anyone why I was running away. Sometimes I was found by the police. I was starving so I stole chocolate in Bridge of Weir. I made it to my parents' street in Paisley and asked about my mother and people knew of her but she said didn't want to know me. Some of her neighbours gave me bread, chips and a drink and I slept on the streets.
51. One day a white van stopped and the driver tried to get me into his van which had a roller shutter at the back. He went to the top of the road, turned and came back down and asked me if I wanted a lift but I refused. A second incident occurred where a man came along in a van when I was near the bus stop in Bridge of Weir and he asked me to go and stay with him. This was a black work van. I was scared and I ran into the chemist and told the woman in the chemist and she told me to go back to the

children's home. I was too scared to leave the chemist. I told Jim Newlands about these incidents because he came to the home after I had run away.

52. I got scared to run away because of these things so I just hid in the grounds of Quarriers. I stayed in the park near the monkey bars for a few days. Sometimes when I ran away I realised I had nowhere to run to so I would sit down and cry for a while and then walk back to Quarriers.

Bed Wetting

53. [EZN] went mad when you went the bed and rubbed your face in the sheets. I saw my siblings and other children getting shoved and their faces rubbed in the sheets. You were made to feel really bad and then you were grounded and put to bed early. Sometimes you were forced to wash your sheets in the sinks out the back and then [EZN] would put them on the line in the fenced off area.
54. If you wet the bed on one occasion you had to go to the hospital and had to stay there at night until you stopped. You were attached to a bell which would ring when you wet the bed. I only wet the bed twice and I was terrified about having to stay in the hospital. I was in hospital for a couple of days but I stopped wetting the bed quickly. My siblings were there for a long time.

Abuse at Quarriers Village

55. If I was in bed and [EZN] thought I had spoken she would barge in, bang the door, turn the light on, drag me by whatever part of me she could grab, usually my hair or my arm or my ear, and she would drag me down all the stairs, through the playroom, through the back door and chuck me into the shed. She would lock me in. It was freezing cold and there was no light. I would stay there until 11pm or 11.30pm or later until [EZN] was going to bed.

56. Sometimes she would make me polish all the shoes too. My sibling was made to scrub the floor with a toothbrush. That was just for talking. I lived in fear for most of the time so I ended not talking to anybody for a couple of years because I was so scared. **EZN** was a cold hearted person. If you answered her back that was even worse. One day she was battering me and my sibling told her that if she touched me again he would kill her.
57. I was worried about him getting into trouble because when he got into trouble he was sent to Mr **GBZ** in cottage twenty who was sexually abusing him and others. Cottage twenty was where the boys were sent if they were considered to be misbehaving. My sibling committed suicide because they couldn't cope with all the years of abuse they suffered at Quarriers. This included electric shock therapy which they and others were subjected to in the hospital in Quarriers to make them behave.
58. **EZN** caught me trying to light a cigarette on the grill for the older children one day and she battered me senseless. I was battered nearly every day. She also made the other children send you to Coventry. If anybody did speak to you then they would get the same treatment as you.
59. **QNH** was sexually abusing me. **EZN** caught him sneaking into my bedroom one night but she didn't do anything. I was sleeping and when I woke up this boy was doing things to me. He masturbated himself and touched me. She made me feel disgusting as if it was my fault. She threw him out of the room, told me to get to sleep and shut the door. She ignored me the next day and she never mentioned it again. I was scared to go to sleep at night in case he came into the bedroom and did things to me. This meant I slept in on occasion and was punished by **EZN** for this. This also impacted on my sleep pattern. Some time later I heard he was coming back to Quarriers from the army to stay and I said if he came back I would leave.
60. His brother **██████████** also abused me. He touched me in the playroom, tried to make me sit on his knee and tried to kiss me. They were maybe up to ten years older than me. I think there was a third brother in the home as well. **██████████** offered me a special

cuddle after I fell down the chute and I didn't realise at the time that this was abuse. They abused me and other girls in the playroom. I was scared of everybody in there.

61. I was scared of the other children who were bullies and I was scared of the staff. I was scared to tell anybody anything. We weren't encouraged to talk to each other. I didn't trust anybody enough to tell them anything. I was scared to say to my sibling who was being abused as well although I don't know by whom.
62. EZN had a problem with my whole family. She called us [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I felt I didn't have my own identity.
63. EZN also made you stand in the corner with your hands above your head for hours at a time. If you turned around she would whack you and your head would hit the wall. Sometimes she would make you sit cross legged with your hands on your head, also for hours at a time.
64. EZN brushed my teeth with soap as a punishment for swearing when I was about five years old. She also did this to others. She would also push your head under the tap.
65. GBX was the first cottage auntie we had. She was tall with long black hair and long nails. She was quite young. GBY was another auntie. She was small and dumpy. Her husband ran the minibus. They lived in a cottage just outside the gate near the fire station.
66. They were the same as EZN. They physically abused me and there was a lot of mental abuse from them like getting other children not to talk to you. They would also drag you out of your bed, throw you in the shed and not give you any food. They looked after us when EZN went away for a couple of days to her flat in [REDACTED] in Port Glasgow.
67. EZN battered me nearly every day. It wasn't discipline. She hit me mostly with her hand but if her hand got too sore she would take her slipper off and finish the job. I

was slapped about the head quite a lot but mostly it was my trousers or pyjamas taken down and hit on the bare bottom, the bottom of my back and the tops of my legs. Some days I couldn't stand up with the pain. I couldn't understand what I had done that was so bad that I needed to be abused like that. This could happen for three or four days at a time and then I would be ignored for a couple of weeks. Then it would start again if, for example, I didn't go to sleep on time or if I didn't wake up on time in the morning because I was in a room with older girls who would wake me up when they came to bed. Then I couldn't sleep so that was causing problems. I was battered for being awake. I got battered so much I didn't cry out in pain.

Moving to foster care

68. I was fostered when I was in primary five for two years. I think this came about as a result of one of the open days. I was told by **EZN** that a couple called **EZO-SPO** were going to be my new foster parents. I spent a couple of weekends with them before I moved in. I came home from school and **EZN** told me I would be moving the next day. My clothes were packed and I was taken there.
69. The **EZO-SPO** lived at **██████████**, Port Glasgow. They had two older children called **██████████** and **EZP**. I didn't want to be fostered because I didn't want to be separated from my siblings. When I was in foster care my surname was changed to **EZM**.

The **EZO-SPO foster care**

70. The **EZO-SPO** lived in a mid-terraced house. It had two bedrooms and a box room. There was a lounge and a dining room then a kitchen. Upstairs was a toilet, the back bedroom, Mr and Mrs **EZO-SPO** bedroom and **EZP** bedroom. I shared a room with **██████████** who was thirteen or fourteen. I had a drawer with some clothes in it but I didn't have any other possessions. **EZP** was at university and I think the reason

they had me was because they needed money for **EZP** to go to university. The **EZO-SPO** were getting paid for me being there.

71. The first night I was there Mrs **EZO** asked me if I wanted a biscuit and she started shouting at me, 'If you don't take a biscuit now, don't come looking for one later'.
72. I missed my siblings and I didn't want to be there. I was always asking about my siblings but Mrs **EZO** told me I was living there and I was never going to see them again.
73. The **EZO-SPO** smoked constantly. I have nothing bad to say about Mr **████████** he was really nice although he very rarely spoke to me. I think Mr **████████** was scared of Mrs **EZO** because he was small and she was large. What she said went. I never felt any love or that they wanted me there.

Daily Routine

74. I got up at 7.30am, washed, dressed, had breakfast and walked the dog. Mrs **EZO** made me turn every switch in the house off before I went to school in the morning. I think I was just there to walk the dog. I did this every day before I went to school and when I came back from school. The dog pulled me off my feet regularly and my knees would be skinned. I lost it one day and they went mental. I had to go to the shop to get potatoes every day after school and then come home and walk the dog. They sent me to bed at 7pm.
75. On a Saturday morning Mr **████████** took me to the shop in his car. His mother lived nearby so he would visit her and she would give me fifty pence to go to the shop to get a comic and a sweetie while he would do the shopping. Then we went back to get Mrs **EZO** and go for a drive to Greenock or somewhere.
76. I went out to play on a Sunday. They took me to Church of Scotland which was beside the primary school. They also made me go to Sunday school but I didn't like

church or Sunday school. After church Mrs EZO's sister and her two children would visit and we would play with the dog. Then I was put to bed.

77. I got a bath once a week on a Sunday. Mrs EZO washed my hair when I was in the bath.

Visits

78. I didn't see my siblings or have any contact with them during this period.

Schooling

79. I had to walk miles to school because Mrs EZO wouldn't give me any bus fare. I went to Clune Park Primary School where the SNR was Mrs EZO. Mrs EZO made me wear a kilt to school instead of the school uniform so I felt out of place. I also wore a knitted burgundy jumper, a school shirt and tie. Everybody else wore the grey school uniform.
80. School was alright but the other children knew I was to the SNR so they ostracised me. They took the school bus but I wasn't allowed the fifteen pence for it. Initially I walked with a neighbour's daughter but then she started walking with her friends so I had to walk by myself, carrying a trumpet.

Running away

81. I tried to run away but somebody saw me and took me home. Mrs EZO said I was ungrateful and it was no wonder my parents didn't love me and that I was in a home. I didn't know who my parents were so this didn't hurt me.

Abuse

82. If I got into trouble I was put into my room and told not to come out. Sometimes this would be all weekend. I counted cars going past to pass the time.

83. Mrs **EZO** dragged me upstairs and downstairs because I didn't want to go to school.
84. One day I asked for twenty pence for the ice cream van. I had never asked before but Mrs **EZO** was furious.
85. One day the **EZO-SPO** were out and **EZP** hit me and gave me a black eye. He was watching me and I asked him to turn down his music. He hit me across the face and the fastening on his jacket gave me a black eye.
86. Mrs **EZO** battered me for borrowing money from a jar to buy a present for a teacher. She locked me in the cupboard under the stairs.
87. Mrs **EZO** constantly demeaned me. She mocked the way I spoke and she didn't like my accent. She told me not to talk about Quarriers, my siblings or my social worker.

Reporting of abuse

88. I told Jim Newlands about the abuse when he came to collect me. I read the social work report in later years and the **EZO-SPO** were struck off the foster parents' list after they had me. It said he wouldn't recommend leaving a dog with them. I found out later they had somebody before me from Quarriers and they hadn't worked out. I reported their abuse to the police in later years.

Leaving foster care

89. I ran away once after about eighteen months, got caught and then Jim came. I told him I would run away again if he didn't take me back to Quarriers to my siblings. Mrs **EZO** said I had to choose between them and my family. Jim asked me if I wanted

to go back to Quarriers or if I wanted to go somewhere else. I told Jim I didn't really want to go back to Quarriers but I didn't know anywhere else. I asked him to lock me up in a List D school but he refused.

90. The second time Jim came was to take me back to Quarriers, to cottage fifteen with EZN. Mrs EZO wouldn't let me take the things she had bought me like the trumpet. I left the EZO-SPO in the middle of my primary seven year and got the Dux prize when I returned to Quarriers but they wouldn't give it to me because I hadn't been at school in Quarriers for the full academic year.

Quarriers Village 1978

91. When I came back to Quarriers things were less regimented. I was there for about a year. One of my siblings had left cottage fifteen by the time I went back and they were in cottage twenty with Mr GBZ.
92. The cottage aunties brought their boyfriends in all the time. They sometime showed up on the holidays. I was abused by GBX's boyfriend. He lived in Johnstone. He pretended to tickle me and other children in the playroom but he was touching us inappropriately. One night I was sick in bed when I was in a room with the sisters and . I was sent to the playroom while my bed was being changed and GBX's boyfriend grabbed me by the leg, pulled my pyjamas off and raped me.
93. This was covered up by Quarriers. I told GBX but she didn't believe me and she battered me. She never spoke to me again and she told the other children not to speak to me. I told EZN about being raped too. Eventually GBX finished with her boyfriend and we weren't allowed to speak about him. She hated me after that and made my life a misery.
94. EZN and GBX were very friendly and covered up for each other. I was ostracised so I started self-harming. I was still running away and they always brought me back

even though I said I didn't want to be there. QNH and other boys were coming back to stay from the army and he was trying to abuse me again. I was scared to go to sleep so I said they had to move me. I was living on the streets for weeks at a time so the social workers decided I could go to Overbridge.

95. One time I ran away and met a girl from Quarriers in Bridge of Weir and I was accused of encouraging her to run away. We weren't allowed to speak when we returned to Quarriers and I was moved to the hostel in Quarriers and then to Overbridge. My friend was put into the children's home across the road, which I think was called Fairfield, so we were able to run away together.

Overbridge, Pollokshields

96. Overbridge was [REDACTED] Mr and Mrs QAX/QCN and a lady who helped out. The QAX/QCN's son also lived there. I wasn't in Overbridge for very long. There were eight or nine children in total, aged eight to sixteen.
97. The bedroom door was jammed open at all times. The first day I was there Mr QCN barged into the bedroom shouting and bawling for everybody to get up. I went to sit down on the bed and one of the other girls told me he would go mad because once you got up you weren't allowed to sit down again. You weren't allowed to go upstairs during the day. You had to stay in the shed which was a garage separate to the house with a television, a couple of couches and some lockers. Mr QCN was a big scary man and he was really strict. I wasn't asked whether I wanted to go to school so I sat in the shed all day. I didn't have any visitors.
98. Mr QCN said I was there because I wouldn't behave myself in Quarriers. He took me to see a psychiatrist or a psychologist. I saw the report and it said that this young girl feels as if her life is not worth living. She is self-harming. The psychologist told me that she would be more worried about me if I didn't feel the way I felt. She said my feelings were natural.

99. Mr ^{QCN} [REDACTED] wasn't nice to me so I started running away again. I was lifted by the police after I had been away for a week. I was taken to Renfrew police station and locked up in the cells. The following morning Mr ^{QCN} [REDACTED] came and the police opened the door of the cell. He said right into my face, 'You have done it now. You will be locked up for good this time.' I spat right in his face so he slammed the door shut.
100. Later that night I was taken in a car to Cardross by the emergency social work department. They said they didn't have anywhere else to put me. I was there for eleven months.

Cardross Assessment Centre, Dumbarton

101. Cardross Assessment Centre was situated near the train station. There was a main reception area which was used as a canteen and meetings were held there in the evenings. You went up three steps and there was a pool table. There were three separate wings which held different dormitories. The school was in an old cottage. The centre didn't have large grounds.
102. There were around sixteen children in my section who ranged in age from eleven to fourteen or fifteen. There were two staff members for each unit. There were three separate living areas within each section, each with four bedrooms. We didn't really associate with the other two units within our section although if we behaved we were allowed to sit together. The different sections all ate together in the canteen. I was moved into one of the other units after I was assessed.
103. I had my own bedroom. It had a bed, a built in wardrobe and a set of drawers. I had posters all over my walls. You were allowed to shut the door and were allowed into your room during the day.

104. The man **SNR** was called **GPG**. Rita Morland was a key worker and was in the unit across from me. There was a staff member called **GPF** and one called Margaret Brydon.
105. I was supposed to be there for three weeks but I was there for eleven months. I had high hopes when I went there but nothing changed. Nobody made a decision about my life. Meetings took place but there were no decisions made. Cardross was very strict and I hadn't done anything wrong.
106. Other children's families gave the assessment centre money for them to get cigarettes and I think the social work department gave them money for mine. If you had behaved, you got a cigarette after breakfast. After lunch when you returned to the unit the smokers were all lined up and taken downstairs to get their cigarettes. You got one again at teatime and when you went to bed. If you smoked you got to stay up later at night so that was an incentive.

Routine at Cardross

First day

107. I was taken there by the out of hours social work department and arrived late at night when everybody was sleeping so I was put into a small room. There was a member of the night staff on duty. They asked me if I wanted something to eat and they gave me a piece of bread and jam and a drink.

Mornings and bedtime

108. You got up in the morning at 7am and went into the sitting room in your unit just outside your bedroom. Everybody went down for breakfast then back up to the unit. Lights were put out at 9pm. The unit was locked at night and somebody sat outside the bedroom door.

Mealtimes / Food

109. I still had a lot of problems with eating after being in Quarriers so I would get special things made for me. I ate eggs quite a lot. I could eat bacon but not things like stew that used to be shoved down my throat. I was malnourished by that point. They encouraged me to eat but they didn't force me.

Washing / bathing

110. You could have a bath as often as you wanted and could shut the door and nobody was allowed in.

Clothing / uniform

111. We wore our own casual clothes. The woman that came in at night was really nice and she gave me clothes that her daughter no longer wanted. She came into the room to talk to me and gave me a couple of biscuits.

School

112. We went to school which was within the grounds. It was just a building with classes in it, it wasn't really a school. We went back to the unit for lunch then back to school in the afternoon. The class sizes were small and mixed ages. There was no formal education, we just drew and made things. I missed going to a real school because I enjoyed it.
113. Some of the children went to a different school during the day and came back to Cardross at night. Everybody was different. All through my life I didn't ask anybody why they were in care. The children were coming and going so I couldn't form relationships.

Leisure Time

114. We watched television in the evenings or two of the staff took you for a wee run in the minibus. There were books and set times when you could watch television. When I was in the second unit Rita Morland and another staff member took us to Helensburgh some nights to the café or for a walk on the beach. I hung around the unit at the weekends but some people went home. We were taken to the pool in Helensburgh and I did all my swimming badges up to 2000m.

Visits / Inspections/ Review of Detention

115. Jim Newlands brought my brother one day but they hadn't told me they were coming and I had run away. I could see him from where I was hiding so I ran back but I only got to speak to him for a minute because I didn't want to go back into the home. The only way to see him was to go back into the home and talk to him but I didn't want to do that.

Healthcare

116. I hadn't seen a dentist since I left Quarriers and there were no health checks in Cardross. I used toilet roll when I had my period because I didn't want to ask for sanitary products.

Running away

117. I had no visits from my siblings. I asked to see my social worker but he didn't come. I started running away so he eventually came. I was told there were case conferences but I was never told what happened at those meetings.
118. I ran away a few times. I got as far as Dumbarton. Sometimes I was picked up by the police. If one person didn't behave the whole unit got locked down so people rebelled. The doors were locked so it was difficult to run away.
119. The punishments got worse for running away. The first time you were just grounded and made to stay in your room. You weren't allowed out of the unit or allowed

recreation. I was held down because I tried to run away, then lifted up and thrown into my room. Most of the staff members were nice but some of the men threw their weight around.

120. Sometimes I climbed out of the window in my nightdress because the staff removed your clothes if you didn't behave and you weren't allowed downstairs to go to the canteen. Eventually I was allowed down to the canteen but in my nightdress and no pants and one day someone came into the unit and didn't lock the door so I bolted out barefoot into the snow and ran away.
121. When I was caught I was taken back to Cardross and the staff boarded up the window and locked the door. They took everything out of my room, all my posters, my bed, everything. I was left with just a mattress and a nightdress.
122. Another time I went to the train station in my nightdress and I was going to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] but I was taken to the psychiatric hospital, Gartnavel. They agreed with me that my life was bad but they released me the same day back to Cardross.

Abuse at Cardross Assessment Centre

123. I was locked in my room quite a lot and got my dinner thrown in to me. When I was grounded I was not allowed to go to the canteen or living room areas. I remember others being locked in their rooms but not stripped and having their possessions removed. I felt that I had no worth.
124. A couple of the men restrained me when I refused to go into my room and take my clothes off. They would barge me, put me down and strip me naked. Someone else would run in, strip the room and board up the window. Then they would shove you into the back of the room and pull the door shut. I felt as if it was partly my fault because I was frustrated as I had been there for so long and nobody cared.

Leaving Cardross Assessment Centre

125. There was a meeting and it was decided that I was to go to Alva Children's Home. I didn't get any warning I was just told that I was going and that was it. They took me for an overnight stay or a weekend just to get used to it.

Alva Children's Home, Crookston

126. Secondary Institutions - to be published later

127.

128.

129.

130.

131.

132. In 1983 my sibling turned up and said I was going to live with them. Jim had arranged this with them although I had not been asked.

Life after being in care

133. I packed my stuff into a carrier bag and I got the bus. I think I used some pocket money for the bus fare. Nobody said goodbye to me. Jim and my sibling had agreed that I would go and stay with them and that Jim would buy me a single bed. I met my sibling in Paisley. Jim came to their house a couple of days later to give them the money for my bed but they had spent the money on drugs and alcohol for them and their partner and so I was left in a room with nothing except a mattress on the floor and the posters I had brought from Alva. I didn't see a social worker after that as I was officially out of the care system.

134. I stayed in my room. My sibling had men and boys coming and going all the time. They were drinking and taking drugs. I went to see Jim at Craigielea House and asked him if I could leave but he said I had to stay. When I got dole money my sibling took it off me. They eventually threw me out and I ended up living in a bus shelter. I tried to take my own life and I was found by a friend. I moved in with him and his mum and dad and I later ended up in a relationship with him. I went to the social work department in Craigielea Drive to ask if I could get my own house and they said only if I got pregnant. I got pregnant so I could get my own flat. My partner

then started a sexual relationship with my sibling and took my dole money off me every week.

135. I ended up staying in hospital for three and a half months because I didn't have anywhere else to go before the baby was born and I was there for a while afterwards as I had a postpartum haemorrhage. I got in touch with Rita Morland somehow and she persuaded me to move in with her. I moved in with her, who I called Auntie Rita, and her husband, who I called Uncle Tommy, in Helensburgh for up to a year. I wanted to tell Rita everything that had happened to me but I didn't feel I trusted anyone enough to tell them what was going on in my life.
136. I subsequently lived in a shared flat in Balloch. Then I got my own house there. I still missed my sibling so I went to Paisley and found them. I moved into their flat with them but then my other sibling came so I left and went into homeless accommodation. My sibling ended up in jail so I went back to stay with my other sibling but a short time after this they took their own life. Some of the social workers were supportive after my sibling died.
137. I did some casual jobs and I trained to be a hairdresser and a barber. I tried to open a shop but I had cash flow problems as the result of a flood so I applied to be an engineer with Paisley and Johnstone Training Board with the Women into Engineering Programme. This was in 2005. I got a place and went there for a year. I loved it. I was the only person out of the twelve who started, to finish Then I did an HNC and an HND in engineering then went to university. I had a cleaning job from 6am to 8am, got the children out to school, went to university, went to another cleaning job and then went home.
138. Some Saturdays I worked as a steward at Celtic Park. My son had a serious accident so I had to leave university. I started up my own business doing electrical testing and then I got a chance to work on a site full time with the Heron Brothers and I still work in construction through agencies. I am hoping to get further qualifications in site management. I do a lot of private study and sit online exams although when I first started studying my confidence was low.

139. My children have all passed their school exams and have worked since they left school. They have never been on benefits. I always cooked fresh food every day for my children. They have always had the best of food and all the love they could ever have and I tell them that I love them every single day. I have five grandchildren. I have provided a stable environment for my children. I managed to break the cycle because when you have been brought up in the care system people don't expect you to bring up your own children. If you have been brought up in care I don't think you should be putting your children into care.

Impact

140. I started self-harming when I was quite young. I was emotionally hard on myself from a young age and started self-harming when I was a bit older. I took out my frustration by self-harming. I haven't done this since my children were born. I have had laser treatment but I still have scars and that is why I don't wear short sleeves.

141. I don't believe in smacking and I have never smacked my own children. At the same time I do understand that you do have to have some discipline but some of the discipline when I was in care was really harsh and left me covered in bruises.

142. When I was in labour I didn't make any noise and the midwife asked me if I had been abused because she said it wasn't normal not to make a noise. I learned to hide my emotions as a result of my experiences in care.

143. I have been single for the last 25 years because I don't trust anybody. I don't like being in bed with anyone and I don't like anyone in my room when I am sleeping. I don't like being intimate. I can't sleep beside anyone so this is why I don't have a relationship. Sometimes I don't feel I am worthy of anybody's love so it is easy for me to walk away.

144. I suffered from low self-esteem for years. I suffered from depression, anxiety and stress. I had a year of counselling following my sibling's death and I saw a counsellor last year for depression. I have been on medication on and off for this over the years.
145. I don't go out and socialise. I don't like being away from home.
146. I don't have a relationship with any of my siblings. I have been told I have other siblings but I have never met them. If you have been brought up in care I don't think you should be putting your children into care.
147. I don't enjoy food, I eat to survive. I don't enjoy eating socially and this is as a result of being forced to eat when I was young.

Reporting of Abuse

148. I got into trouble when I left care and Liz Maloney was the court social worker. It was good to see her again. I liked her. I still bump into her sometimes. She encouraged me to speak to the police about my abuse but it was buried under the carpet. Sheila Macdermott and Liz Maloney at the court were aware of what had happened to me.
149. I reported my abuse when I left care and was having counselling. The social work department at Craigielea House called me into a meeting with their legal representative but nothing happened afterwards. I reported my abuse to Paisley police, to two women police officers, some time ago but nothing happened. I also told the police when I was in custody before I went to Cardross but they didn't do anything. I also told Jim Newlands.

Records

150. I applied to see my records when I left care but it didn't happen until 1987 or 1988. I saw them in the social work department under supervision. They stopped me because I was getting upset and annoyed. I have been told my records from Quarriers don't exist. I can't understand this because there was a diary in the sitting room and the person on duty wrote down what happened in the cottage each day.
151. Jim Newlands gave me two photographs from my time in Quarriers and I got one from an ex Quarriers friend.
152. One of the saddest things when I did finally get to read some of my records was the fact that page after page said 'No visitors'. There was nothing written in my files apart from that. My records had a lot of material missing, material redacted and they were full of misinformation.

Lessons to be Learned

153. There is a need to listen to children. Each child should have their own social worker and not a social worker for the family. There should also be another independent person that a child could trust that they could talk to and there should be more information given to children. I hope the Inquiry can implement something so that children in care have someone they can trust and have more support on leaving care.
154. The Inquiry should look at things that have happened in the past and people should be held to account for their actions.
155. People now can let their voices be heard without judgement. This is the most anyone has ever listened to me in my life.

156. 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. EZM

Dated. 21st September 2021.