

1 Tuesday, 30 October 2018

2 (10.00 am)

3  
4 LADY SMITH: Good morning. Today we return to some more  
5 oral evidence in the Quarriers, Aberlour and Barnardo's  
6 case study. Just to remind anybody who's following  
7 where we're at, we're still hearing witnesses in  
8 relation to the provision of residential care at  
9 Quarriers Homes. I think we start with Ms Rattray  
10 leading some evidence this morning; is that right?

11 MS RATTRAY: Yes, my Lady. The first witness this morning  
12 is an applicant who wishes to remain anonymous and he  
13 has chosen the pseudonym "Alan".

14 "ALAN" (sworn)

15 LADY SMITH: Please sit down and make yourself comfortable.  
16 That looks as though you're in a good position for that  
17 microphone, Alan. It's important that you stay in  
18 a position where it picks up your voice, both for  
19 everybody to hear you and particularly for the  
20 stenographers to be able to listen through the sound  
21 system. I'll pass you over to Ms Rattray.

22 Questions from MS RATTRAY

23 MS RATTRAY: Good morning, Alan. Just to confirm, which has  
24 probably been explained to you already, the red folder  
25 in front of you, in that you'll find a paper copy of the

1 statement that you have given to the inquiry. A copy of  
2 your statement will also appear on the screen in front  
3 of you. So if you want to use that to remind yourself  
4 of what's in your statement, please feel free to use  
5 either the screen or the red folder, whatever works best  
6 for you.

7 Your statement has been given a reference by the  
8 inquiry, so we can identify which statement is which.  
9 Your reference is WIT.001.002.0214. You should be able  
10 to see that, the first page of your statement, on the  
11 screen in front of you.

12 A. Okay.

13 Q. Just to start with, however, I would like to go to the  
14 paper version in the red folder. If you could turn to  
15 the back page, the last page of your statement, at 0238.  
16 Do you have that?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Can you confirm that you have signed your statement?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Do you see that above that, at paragraph 115, you say:

21 "I have no objection to my witness statement being  
22 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry.

23 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are  
24 true."

25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. And is that correct?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. To start, just to put everything in a time frame,  
4 could you confirm your year of birth? I'm not needing  
5 the dates or anything like that, simply the year you  
6 were born.
- 7 A. 1957.
- 8 Q. Alan, this morning what I'm going to do is I'm going to  
9 ask you some questions about your statement in three  
10 general parts. The first part is just some general  
11 background information to set the scene, if you like, of  
12 your time in Quarriers. The second part is to ask you  
13 about your personal experiences of life in Quarriers.  
14 The third part will then move on to any contact you had  
15 with Quarriers after you left care when you were an  
16 adult and the impact or effect that your time in  
17 Quarriers had upon you in your adult life.
- 18 A. Okay.
- 19 Q. So turning firstly to some general background  
20 information, you tell us in your statement that you went  
21 into Quarriers in 1959; is that correct?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. And you'd have been about 2 years old?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. You also tell us that you left Quarriers in 1965.

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. And you'd have been aged about 8?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Just to confirm that we have seen records from  
5 Quarriers, which give precise dates and they say that  
6 you were admitted on [REDACTED] 1959 and discharged on  
7 [REDACTED] 1965. That generally accords with your  
8 understanding?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. I'm going to now turn to look at the process by which  
11 you were admitted to Quarriers. We understand that in  
12 fact you were admitted because your mum asked that you  
13 be admitted to Quarriers. I would like you to look at  
14 a letter which we have at QAR.001.003.9571. That should  
15 come up on the screen in front of you in a moment or  
16 two.
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. Do we see that there is a letter which bears to be dated  
19 28 April 1959, and although that copy is blacked out,  
20 redacted, it appears to be from the superintendent to  
21 your mother.
- 22 A. Mm-hm.
- 23 Q. Do we see from what the superintendent is saying that  
24 it would appear that her application to have you -- and  
25 I think your brother -- admitted to Quarriers was

1 rejected because they said they were unable to admit you  
2 and your brother owing to being Roman Catholic.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Was that your understanding --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- of the background.

7 A. Uh-huh.

8 Q. Can you help us at all as to what happened following  
9 that?

10 A. I don't really know that much more about what happened  
11 after this. As far as I was led to believe, because  
12 Quarriers was run by the Church of Scotland, it was  
13 Protestant religion sort of thing, they wouldn't take us  
14 in because my mother was Roman Catholic, although  
15 I wasn't a Roman Catholic.

16 Q. I think we see that at the next page of the same  
17 document at page 9572. I think when that comes on the  
18 screen we'll see that there's a letter in response --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- from your mother. She says that you're not Catholic  
21 and that although she is a Catholic, she had every  
22 intention of bringing you up as Protestant and indeed  
23 changing to be Protestant herself.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. She's asking Quarriers to reconsider their decision to

1 admit you and your brother.

2 Then if we move on to the next page, which is 9574,  
3 I think we see here that there appears to be a note from  
4 an inspector at the RSSPCC, the purpose of which seems  
5 to confirm what your mother has stated, that the  
6 children are in fact Protestant.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. If we move on to the next page at 9575, we then see  
9 a letter of 15 May 1959 where Quarriers have changed  
10 their position and presumably in light of that  
11 information have now agreed to admit you and your  
12 brother.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. In relation to your siblings, there's reference in these  
15 letters to you and your brother being admitted.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Did you have any other siblings who were in Quarriers?

18 A. Yes, I had another two brothers, but they were in  
19 a different cottage from the cottage that myself and my  
20 other brother was in, so there was actually four of us  
21 in Quarriers. There was myself and my brother in one  
22 cottage; my other two brothers were in another cottage.

23 Q. Okay. Do you remember having much contact with your --

24 A. Never, ever seen them. Didn't even know who they were  
25 until we were leaving.

- 1 Q. When you were at Quarriers, did you even know you had  
2 two brothers in another cottage?
- 3 A. No.
- 4 Q. I'm now going to turn to the second part of my questions  
5 for you which I mentioned at the outset and ask you  
6 about your experience in Quarriers.
- 7 Firstly, which cottage were you in?
- 8 A. In cottage number 42.
- 9 Q. And who were your house parents there?
- 10 A. QAX/QCN
- 11 Q. Can you tell us your memories of what QAX/QCN  
12 were like as house parents?
- 13 A. My memories of my time in Quarriers was really, really  
14 positive. I always felt my house parents were my actual  
15 parents, sort of thing, because you were made to feel as  
16 part of the family. There was nothing too difficult for  
17 them. I felt I was loved, I was part of their family.  
18 I felt secure, safe. I knew I'd be fed every day,  
19 I knew I'd be bathed every day and I knew that I would  
20 be looked after and I'd be kept safe.
- 21 My time in Quarriers was really, really positive.  
22 For the time I spent with the QAX/QCN I just felt as  
23 if this was what my life was to be like. It was just --  
24 it was a happy time for me.
- 25 Q. Can you remember your first memories when you first

1 arrived in Quarriers? If it's of assistance, I think we  
2 see that at paragraph 15 on page 0216.

3 A. Aye. It's funny how you don't always remember what you  
4 say, but I remember it now. My very first memory is  
5 **QAX** just picking me up and cuddling me. It was  
6 just like I was part of her, sort of thing: even though  
7 she wasn't my birth mother, I was part of her, I was  
8 part of her family and from then on I was just made to  
9 feel important.

10 Q. What did you call the **QAX/QCN** when you were a child?

11 A. Just mum and dad because that's who they were as far as  
12 I was concerned.

13 Q. What about the other children in the cottage? What did  
14 they call them?

15 A. They all just called them the same: mum and dad.

16 Q. Do you remember whether anyone asked you to call them  
17 mum and dad or was that just something that --

18 A. Just something that happened. Nobody said that's what  
19 we were to do. No, that just happened.

20 Q. And did the **QAX/QCN** have children of their own?

21 A. Yes. I think they had a son and a daughter.

22 Q. To what extent, if at all, did you think that their son  
23 and daughter were treated differently from the other  
24 children?

25 A. No, that never happened, no. Just ... we were all the

1 same. We were just all the same. I never, ever seen  
2 anybody being treated differently in all the time I was  
3 there. It was just part of the family.

4 Q. Do you remember any other staff members in the cottage?

5 A. There was another member of staff. She just came in  
6 at the weekend -- I think it was just like to give  
7 QAX/QCN a break, sort of thing, but for the  
8 life of me, I just cannot remember her name. But she  
9 was just -- she helped do the cleaning, the cooking and  
10 all that sort of thing. So I think she was kind of just  
11 in there during the day.

12 Q. Can you help us in relation to numbers of children  
13 in the cottage? Can you remember how many children were  
14 in the cottage with you?

15 A. I think there were about six boys and maybe five girls,  
16 separate dormitories.

17 Q. How old were these children? What was the age range?

18 A. I think myself and my brother, I think we were probably  
19 the youngest, then it was going up to maybe 15 or  
20 something like that.

21 Q. Just turning to your daily routine in cottage 42,  
22 if we look at your statement at page 0217, paragraph 16,  
23 that might assist you to some extent. Can you tell us  
24 a bit about what happened in the morning when you got up  
25 in the morning?

1       A.   Either QAX/QCN would come in the room and get  
2       you up, get you washed and get you dressed ready for  
3       your breakfast.  Then if you were going to school, they  
4       made sure you went to the school and everything -- just  
5       a normal day sort of thing.  You went to school, you  
6       came back for your lunch, you had your lunch, you'd go  
7       back to school.  It was just like a playtime after it,  
8       once you finished school, go home and put your play  
9       clothes on, then you could go out and play -- depending  
10      on the weather of course.  In the summer, it was always  
11      great.  Loads of places to explore and really, really  
12      good time for myself.  You also had to be back in time  
13      for your tea at 5 o'clock.

14             Sorry, I'm just sounding a wee bit nervous sort of  
15      thing.

16      Q.   Don't worry --

17      LADY SMITH:  There's absolutely no need to be nervous.

18             You're not being tested.  All right?  It doesn't matter  
19      if you think you've made a mistake and you have to  
20      correct yourself, just relax.

21      MS RATTRAY:  Alan, you tell us a bit about the sleeping  
22      arrangements.  In the cottage, do you have any  
23      recollection of what would happen in the morning to  
24      children who had perhaps wet their bed at night?

25      A.   Well, I was one of the ones who was wetting his bed.  If

1 I wet my bed at night, I would get up, my bed would be  
2 stripped clean, I would be taken into the bathroom,  
3 bathed.

4 If it happened during the night, it was still the  
5 same. Everything was kept quiet -- not to hide it or  
6 anything, but it was just to make sure other kids  
7 weren't getting disturbed because there were six boys in  
8 the room.

9 Q. So when you talk about stripping the bed, were you  
10 expected to strip your own bed or was that someone else  
11 who did that?

12 A. No, I never, ever stripped my bed it was either **QCN**  
13 **QAX** but I always felt -- if I'd wet the bed,  
14 I wasn't ashamed or scared to tell them that I'd wet the  
15 bed because it was just a matter of fact thing, just to  
16 strip the bed, put clean sheets on, make sure I had  
17 clean pyjamas on and been bathed, clean pyjamas on and  
18 put back to bed.

19 Q. You mention being bathed.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Are you able to help us at all as to whether the water  
22 in the bath was warm water or cold?

23 A. Oh, it was warm water.

24 Q. So you weren't given a cold bath?

25 A. No, no, no, no. There was nothing too much for them to

1 do. I mean, it was just a simple thing like change the  
2 bed, make sure I had clean pyjamas on, I'd been bathed  
3 and clean pyjamas on and put back to bed. But nobody  
4 ever said to me, "That's terrible you're wetting the  
5 bed, you'd better stop doing that". Nobody ever said  
6 that to me. It was just one of these things that  
7 children do and they took care of it in the best way.

8 Q. I'll ask you now about mealtimes and food. What  
9 generally happened at mealtimes? Can you explain what  
10 the sort of practice was?

11 A. The kitchen was a really big kitchen, so there was a big  
12 square table in the middle of the kitchen. We always  
13 sat there and had our meals. It was funny, there was an  
14 old-fashioned cooker that now costs an absolute fortune,  
15 the old Aga cooker -- I think it was six rings on it.  
16 But there was always the smell of something cooking,  
17 whether it was a roast or there was baking or -- there  
18 was always something cooking. But mealtimes would --  
19 you'd always get fed, you'd get your porridge in the  
20 morning, you'd get your lunch if you weren't going to  
21 school, then you'd get your tea at night, then you'd  
22 have your supper before you went to your bed sort of  
23 thing.

24 Q. And the QAX/QCN and their children,  
25 did they eat with you or separately?

- 1 A. They ate with us.
- 2 Q. So whatever the children were eating, they were sharing  
3 the same food?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. What happened if a child didn't like the food?
- 6 A. Well, I didn't like cabbage. To this day I still don't  
7 like cabbage. I would just leave it. No, it wasn't --  
8 there was never an issue about it. I just didn't like  
9 cabbage and just wouldn't eat it. I told them, "I don't  
10 like that", but there was nothing ... They never made  
11 me force myself to eat it or tried to force-feed me to  
12 eat it. Nothing like that. It was just put in the bin.
- 13 Q. The clothes you wore, you mention that at 0218,  
14 paragraph 24. The clothes you had to wear, were they  
15 for you alone or would you get some clothes one day and  
16 someone else would be wearing them another day or  
17 anything like that?
- 18 A. No, no, I had my own clothes and it was just like the  
19 same, whatever you were wearing, but you always knew it  
20 was your own clothes.
- 21 Q. You have mentioned school. What were your experiences  
22 at school?
- 23 A. I didn't really like the school because I thought there  
24 was a lot of time -- there was too many people in the  
25 one class sort of thing. I think I was still pretty

1 young when I went to school and kind of by the age where  
2 I was just starting to get settled into school was when  
3 we left, sort of thing.

4 Q. What about Sundays? What was the routine on a Sunday?

5 A. Sunday, after breakfast, you'd put your Sunday best on  
6 and you go to church. We all just went down to the  
7 church for the church service on a Sunday morning. And  
8 it was always the same at Christmas and Easter: you  
9 always went to church at Christmas and Easter.

10 Q. I think you tell us at paragraph 27 that you don't  
11 remember anything about going away on trips or holidays  
12 or anything of that kind?

13 A. No, no.

14 Q. Moving on, you'll see below there at paragraph 28 -- how  
15 were birthdays marked in the **QAX/QCN** cottage, if at  
16 all?

17 A. Well, whoever it was that was having a birthday party,  
18 whether it was myself or my brother, there'd always  
19 be -- you'd always be spoilt rotten, basically. You'd  
20 get your wee presents and your birthday cake and  
21 everybody would be joining in the party games. So you  
22 were made to feel as if you were included and you were  
23 special that day. So that was good. Aye, a real good  
24 time.

25 Q. If you can describe how Christmas was in cottage 42?

1 A. Christmas was brilliant. [REDACTED] QAX [REDACTED] was a tremendous  
2 cook. She would make the big Christmas dumplings and  
3 there was always a fight to see who was getting the  
4 sixpence. She always put a couple of sixpences in it  
5 and there was always arguing and all that: "I'm getting  
6 the sixpence", "No, you got it" --

7 LADY SMITH: Was that the clootie dumpling?

8 A. Yes. Christmas again was really good. You were spoilt  
9 rotten. You had your toys and all that sort of thing.  
10 Again, well looked after and well fed.

11 MS RATTRAY: So you were given toys as gifts at Christmas?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. What happened to the toys after that?

14 A. We kept them. Aye, we kept them, we played with them.

15 Q. I think you've mentioned and you touched on it when  
16 we were talking about the daily routine. Can you  
17 describe the kind of things you did in your leisure time  
18 when you had time to go out and play?

19 A. Leisure time would be -- weather permitting of course,  
20 if it was summertime we were out after breakfast in the  
21 school holidays and all that, out after breakfast,  
22 coming back for your lunch, we'd go exploring  
23 everywhere, climbing trees, just generally doing what  
24 kids do sort of thing. It was fun, it was totally fun.  
25 It was just like ... It was a safe environment for me.

1 I could go anywhere in Quarrier's Village, I could go  
2 anywhere and it was always safe for me. Just happy,  
3 happy times.

4 Q. The other children in your cottage, what was your  
5 impression of the other children's experience of care?  
6 Were they generally treated in the same way as you were  
7 treated?

8 A. In my cottage, yes, aye. Everybody was just happy.  
9 I mean we all kind of hung about together, sort of  
10 thing, and nobody ever seemed to be upset or anything  
11 like that. And nobody ever said anything bad about

12 **QAX/QCN**

13 Q. Did you ever see children from other cottages?

14 A. Aye. You were out playing, but you didn't really mix  
15 with kids from other cottages. You just kind of stuck  
16 to the people who you knew every day, seen every day.

17 Q. Did you ever hear anything about children in other  
18 cottages and their experience in Quarriers while you  
19 were a child there?

20 A. No, no. My time in Quarriers was really positive.

21 I can only thank **QAX/QCN** for the kindness  
22 that they showed us and looked after me.

23 Q. We've sometimes heard children speaking of their  
24 experiences and talking about that there were good  
25 cottages and bad cottages. While you were there, were

- 1           you ever aware of there being such a thing as a bad  
2           cottage?
- 3       A. No, no. Never, ever heard anything like that.
- 4       Q. In relation to chores, were there any chores that you  
5           were asked to do during the day?
- 6       A. Not really, no -- apart from there was a wee farm at the  
7           end of the road, sort of thing, and my chore was just to  
8           go and get some vegetables with a wee bucket and just  
9           walk down to the farm and get some vegetables, a turnip,  
10          a cabbage, some carrots. That was it, that was my wee  
11          job. I quite liked it. I think it was just getting  
12          that sense of responsibility. Aye, that was my wee job.
- 13       Q. So did other children have jobs?
- 14       A. Not that I know of, no. I think because I was getting  
15          to that certain age, maybe 6, 7 sort of thing, they  
16          maybe just thought I was more independent -- and the  
17          farm wasn't that far away anyway, so I was still in  
18          a safe area. So aye ...
- 19       Q. Can I take it from that that in your time in cottage 42  
20          you never saw children being asked to clean bathrooms or  
21          polish floors or anything of that nature?
- 22       A. No, no.
- 23       Q. Did you get any pocket money?
- 24       A. Well, yes, you did. I got pocket money; my brother got  
25          pocket money as well. I can't remember how much it was,

1 but it wasn't an absolute fortune, but it was enough to  
2 go down to the wee shop -- they had a wee shop at  
3 Quarriers and you'd go down there and spend your money.

4 Q. Can you tell us a little about healthcare, about how  
5 your health was when you were at Quarriers? If I can  
6 take you to 0221, paragraphs 37 and 38 is what you've  
7 said in your statement if that assists.

8 A. Basically, if you were ill, you were taken to the  
9 hospital, because they had their own hospital in  
10 Quarriers. So you were taken to the hospital. You did  
11 get the treatment you needed. There was a dentist if  
12 you had any problems.

13 I ended up at one point getting the measles and  
14 spent some time in the hospital, but I was looked after.  
15 There was nothing they wouldn't have done for me, sort  
16 of thing.

17 Q. Just in the next paragraph of the statement, at  
18 paragraph 39, you were asked about running away, as to  
19 whether you ever ran away. What's your response to  
20 that?

21 A. I never ran away. Why would I want to run away? I had  
22 everything I needed. I had love, I had security, I was  
23 looked after, so why would I want to run away from  
24 something as good as that?

25 Q. Were you aware of other children ever running away?

- 1 A. Not in my cottage, no, but there probably was. Never  
2 from my cottage.
- 3 Q. When you say that there probably was, do you remember  
4 anything about hearing about other children running  
5 away?
- 6 A. No, not really. Not really. Not really.
- 7 Q. I'm going to ask you now about discipline in the  
8 cottage. Were there any rules at all where you knew you  
9 had to do one thing and you weren't allowed to do  
10 another?
- 11 A. No. They did have discipline, yes, but it was never  
12 excessive, it was: right, you did something wrong, bend  
13 over, a whack on the bum with a spoon or a slipper, only  
14 once, don't do it again. But you still done it. As  
15 kids, you still done it because you just pushed the  
16 boundaries. But no, I was never excessively hit in  
17 Quarriers. Again, just once with a spoon and, "Don't do  
18 it again".
- 19 Q. And the spoon, is that the wooden spoon that you refer  
20 to in your statement?
- 21 A. Aye.
- 22 Q. When you were hit with the wooden spoon, can you  
23 remember which end it was? Was it the long end or the  
24 round end?
- 25 A. The actual spoon end. It was just like (indicating)

- 1 whack, don't do it again. It was never excessive.
- 2 Q. Who was responsible in the cottage for smacking children  
3 if they hadn't behaved?
- 4 A. At that time it was [REDACTED] QAX [REDACTED] But again, it was  
5 never excessive. Never even made me cry, so that's how  
6 effective it was. It was just like, "Don't do it  
7 again", as if she was just going through the motions and  
8 saying, "Right, you've had enough now, you've just taken  
9 it too far", and she give me a wee, quick skelp and that  
10 would be it.
- 11 Q. What kind of things would you have to do or do wrong to  
12 result in a punishment of that type?
- 13 A. Probably running up and down the stairs inside the  
14 cottage, probably shouting too loud, getting too excited  
15 if you were playing a game or something like that.  
16 She'd just try to make you a wee bit calmer sort of  
17 thing.
- 18 Q. How often do you think you were smacked?
- 19 A. I think in the time I was with the [REDACTED] QAX/QCN [REDACTED] I was  
20 probably smacked about five times.
- 21 Q. In the entire time you were there?
- 22 A. In the entire time.
- 23 Q. And what about other children? Did you see other  
24 children?
- 25 A. My brother got smacked a couple of times as well, but

1           again it was never excessive.

2           Q. When you were smacked, were there other children  
3           present?

4           A. No, no, no.

5           Q. So what happened?

6           A. They would kind of just take you aside and just say,  
7           "Look, you know you've done wrong. I've told you,  
8           you've not to run up and down the stairs". But you  
9           would be taken aside, it would never happen in front of  
10          anybody, and again it was just the once.

11          Q. Were there any other forms of punishment?

12          A. No. That was the only punishment I ever received.

13          Q. I'm going to ask you now about leaving Quarriers. You  
14          tell us about this at page 0223 of your statement from  
15          paragraph 45. Explain in your own words how you came to  
16          leave Quarriers.

17          A. On the morning in 1965, we were just in -- we had been  
18          up and we had our breakfast and we were in the bathroom  
19          brushing our teeth, and it was the care assistant, the  
20          person who worked at the weekends who was there. QCN

21          QAX were nowhere to be seen. We were in the --  
22          myself and my brother were in the bathroom brushing our  
23          teeth and she was like that, "By the way, you're going  
24          to stay with your mother today".

25                 Me and my brother just looked at her as if to say,

1 "What are you talking about? This is our home. QCN

2 QAX is my mum and dad", "No, you're going to go  
3 and live with your mother, she's been wanting to take  
4 you back".

5 So myself and my brother, we got dressed and we were  
6 told just to wait at the front door. We just looked at  
7 each other because we didn't know who this person was  
8 we were going to see.

9 Q. Had your mother visited you in your time at Quarriers?

10 A. Not that I ever remember, no. Not that I recollect.

11 So our wee suitcases were packed for us, so they  
12 must have known that we were going before that actual  
13 day. Absolutely teeming down with rain, just typical  
14 Scottish weather. And we were just put in the back of  
15 this old Transit van by an uncle, who we didn't even  
16 know. And he opened the back door and my other two  
17 brothers were sitting there and myself and my brother  
18 just looked at each other and it was like, "Who are  
19 you?" They told us, "We're your brothers, where have  
20 youse been?"

21 That day we left Quarriers, that was the end of my  
22 childhood. My childhood stopped then. Everything good  
23 that ever happened to me in Quarriers, that was just all  
24 stopped that day.

25 Q. Did you get any chance to say goodbye to --

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. You didn't see [REDACTED] QAX/QCN at all?
- 3 A. No, never. Never even got a chance to say goodbye or  
4 anything. It was just like, "Right, in the back of this  
5 van, away you go".
- 6 Q. How did that make you feel?
- 7 A. Absolutely confused. Stunned. Empty, as if my whole  
8 world had just ended.
- 9 Q. I think in your statement, having looked at your  
10 records, you think there might have been some other  
11 reason other than your mum wanting you back, as to why  
12 you were leaving Quarriers. Can you tell me about that?
- 13 A. I think it was all to do with money. She wanted us back  
14 just for the sake of getting the family allowance and  
15 this sort of thing. She never really -- she was just  
16 a horrible woman. That's all I can say about her. She  
17 was just a horrible woman. She never had any thought or  
18 care for any of her kids. I'm the oldest of nine and  
19 I'm the one here today sitting talking about the  
20 horrible things.
- 21 Q. During this time of leaving Quarriers, did anyone ever  
22 ask you --
- 23 A. No --
- 24 Q. -- what you wanted to happen?
- 25 A. -- no, no. And if they had asked me, I'd have said,

1 "No, I am not leaving Quarriers". That was my home,  
2 that's where I felt safe. That's where I was cared for,  
3 loved. It was unconditional love you received from the  
4 [REDACTED] QAX/QCN You didn't have to prove yourself to be  
5 loved.

6 Q. I think in your statement you've expressed some concern  
7 that there weren't any follow-up visits when you  
8 returned to your mother.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. In your records, in fact, we do see that there appeared  
11 to be a visit to your mother's home on [REDACTED] 1965  
12 before you left.

13 A. Right.

14 Q. And there appears to be one visit after you returned to  
15 your mother on [REDACTED] 1965. In relation to the  
16 visit that's recorded in [REDACTED] 1965, do you have any  
17 memories of someone coming to visit you when you were  
18 with your mum?

19 A. No, never.

20 Q. Do you have any recollection at all of anyone speaking  
21 to you or asking you how you were?

22 A. No. No one ever spoke to us. No one even spoke to us  
23 before we left Quarriers and said, "Would you like to  
24 go?" No one ever took the time to say, "Your mother  
25 wants to take you back", because myself and my

1 brother -- and my brother's spoken about this quite  
2 a lot -- we would have just went, "Absolutely not, we  
3 don't know this person, we're happy where we are". But  
4 that never happened.

5 Q. And you don't remember anyone speaking to you after you  
6 left Quarriers --

7 A. No.

8 Q. -- to ask if you were okay?

9 A. No.

10 LADY SMITH: When you went back to live in your mother's  
11 house, how many children were living there?

12 A. There was actually six. There was two sisters who  
13 I didn't even know about and were actually there on the  
14 day we came.

15 LADY SMITH: So that was six out of, I think, a family of  
16 nine you said?

17 A. Yes. Do you mind if we take a break?

18 LADY SMITH: No, not at all. We can take a break at this  
19 stage.

20 (10.46 am)

21 (A short break)

22 (10.53 am)

23 LADY SMITH: Are you ready to carry on, Alan?

24 A. Yes.

25 LADY SMITH: Ms Rattray, when you're ready.

1 MS RATTRAY: Alan, we know from your statement that, after  
2 leaving Quarriers and returning to your mother, your  
3 experiences at home were very unhappy --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- and you were returned to a situation where you  
6 experienced abuse.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. I know that you understand that the focus of today's  
9 evidence in this case study is about your experiences in  
10 Quarriers --

11 A. Mm-hm.

12 Q. -- so I won't be going into that abusive experience in  
13 any detail with you. Instead, at this stage, what  
14 I would like to do is to move to the third part that  
15 I explained at the outset and to ask you about the  
16 effect that your experiences in Quarriers have had upon  
17 you in your adult life and also to ask about any more  
18 recent contact that you've had with Quarriers as an  
19 adult.

20 You speak about the impact on you at page 0234 of  
21 your statement, but if you could summarise for us how  
22 your experiences in Quarriers have affected you in your  
23 adult life.

24 A. I think my experiences in Quarriers, because it was  
25 positive, have kind of left me with the type of strength

1 that I got from the QAX/QCN recognising goodness,  
2 kindness -- and I think these are characteristics I've  
3 picked up myself. I try not to hurt people, I try to be  
4 kind to people, and I think they instilled that in me,  
5 sort of thing. It's just having respect for other  
6 people and just trying to treat people the best way you  
7 can, and I think that was their way of just building my  
8 character, sort of thing.

9 Q. I think at paragraph 96 you indicate that you feel you  
10 may have lost out by leaving Quarriers.

11 A. Yes, very much so. Very much so. I believe if I'd been  
12 left in Quarriers, I would have completed my education,  
13 I could have been maybe a lawyer, a doctor, even  
14 a judge. I mean, the opportunities would have been  
15 there for me. But when I left Quarriers, that was all  
16 gone.

17 Q. To what extent did your time in Quarriers affect your  
18 relationship with your siblings? You've spoken that you  
19 were with one brother in cottage 42 --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- and you met two other brothers for the first time  
22 when you were leaving.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Were you able to build a relationship with those  
25 brothers?

1 A. No, not really. It's still the same today. Still the  
2 same today. Just ... It's one of the most fractured  
3 families out ... They just went their own way and I've  
4 kind of just plodded along sort of thing.

5 Q. Turning to more recent contact with Quarriers, you  
6 explain at page 0236 that I think you went back to  
7 Quarriers --

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. -- at one stage. I think at paragraph 106 you tell us  
10 about that. Can you tell us what happened when you  
11 returned to Quarriers?

12 A. Yes. Myself and [REDACTED] went to Quarriers just to see  
13 about any records or any photographs or anything like  
14 that. We spoke to the archivist at Quarriers. We  
15 didn't really get anywhere regarding records or  
16 photographs of myself and my brother. She told us  
17 there's thousands upon thousands of negatives and  
18 slides, but there's no money to get them developed, and  
19 basically we can't go through them.

20 I've only one picture and it's only just  
21 a black-and-white sheet of paper and it's myself and my  
22 brother, still babies, sitting out in the garden with  
23 a woman who -- we don't even know who she was.

24 Q. Quarriers have said to us since seeing your statement  
25 that you might have been mistaken when talking about

1 negatives and there being no money. What they say  
2 is that they do have many, many photographs, not  
3 negatives, and they are trying to place them in some  
4 order and put them in an archive so that they can be  
5 identified and provided to people who want them.  
6 That is a process that is currently underway. Is that  
7 something that, if that happened, would be of any  
8 assistance to you?

9 A. No, that is not what we got told. We didn't get told  
10 that. We were told that they're all in negatives and  
11 slides, but they don't have money to get them developed.  
12 We were never told that they're in the process of  
13 developing them.

14 LADY SMITH: Alan, I think that the information Ms Rattray  
15 was explaining was about the situation being at the  
16 moment that Quarriers have found photographs, a lot of  
17 photographs, and they are putting them together so they  
18 can go into an archive to be accessible to anybody who  
19 was at Quarriers who wants to see them.

20 A. Okay.

21 LADY SMITH: Would that be good for you?

22 A. Yes, absolutely. Absolutely. I think it's formed part  
23 of my identity of who I am, what I was like as a child,  
24 because we have no photographs at all. Myself and my  
25 brother, we were quite distinctive because we had

1 [REDACTED] I don't know what happened to it  
2 now, but we had [REDACTED] at the time and it  
3 was really, really distinctive. So we would have just  
4 stood out in any photographs that were taken.

5 MS RATTRAY: Alan, thank you very much. I don't have any  
6 further questions for you, but it may well be someone  
7 else does.

8 LADY SMITH: Let me just check. Are there any outstanding  
9 applications for questions? No.

10 There are no other questions that are to be put to  
11 you today, Alan. It just remains for me to thank you  
12 very much for engaging with the inquiry and telling us  
13 about your particular experience at Quarriers and coming  
14 along to explain it yourself this morning. That's been  
15 really helpful and I'm now able to let you go.

16 A. Thank you.

17 (The witness withdrew)

18 LADY SMITH: Yes, Ms Rattray.

19 MS RATTRAY: Yes, my Lady. We have a further oral witness  
20 this morning. The previous break was to assist the  
21 witness; this may be an appropriate time to take our  
22 morning break and then to resume with the witness after.

23 LADY SMITH: All right. So in about, what, 15 minutes or  
24 so? Very well, we'll do that.

25 (11.05 am)

1 (A short break)

2 (11.26 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Yes, Ms Rattray.

4 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, the next witness is an applicant who  
5 wishes to remain anonymous and has chosen the pseudonym  
6 "George".

7 "GEORGE" (sworn)

8 LADY SMITH: Please sit down and make yourself comfortable.  
9 You'll find that microphone will be really helpful in  
10 enabling you to make yourself heard, George, so do stay  
11 in the right position so that it's picking you up. I'll  
12 tell you if you drift back and I need you to get closer  
13 again. Also let me know if you have any difficulty  
14 hearing through the system yourself; we can deal with  
15 that.

16 Questions from MS RATTRAY

17 MS RATTRAY: Good morning, George.

18 A. Good morning.

19 Q. In the red folder in front of you, I think it has been  
20 explained to you, there is a paper copy of the statement  
21 that you have given the inquiry. A copy of your  
22 statement will also appear on the screen in front of  
23 you. So when we're referring to that, please feel free  
24 to use whichever is best for you, whether the paper one  
25 or looking at the screen.

1           We've given your statement a reference so we're able  
2           to identify your statement. That is WIT.001.002.0249  
3           and that should appear on the screen in front of you.

4           However, to start, I would like to look at the paper  
5           copy. If you could turn to the back page of your  
6           statement, please, and that's at page 0266.

7           A. Yes.

8           Q. Do we see that you have signed your statement; is that  
9           correct?

10          A. That's correct.

11          Q. Above that, it says:

12                 "I have no objection to my witness statement being  
13                 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry.  
14                 I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are  
15                 true."

16                 Is that right?

17          A. That's correct, yes.

18          Q. George, will you confirm your year of birth? We don't  
19                 need the day or the month, simply the year you were  
20                 born.

21          A. 1954.

22          Q. What I'm going to do, I'm going to go through your  
23                 statement with you and ask you questions about part of  
24                 your statement in three parts. Firstly, I'm just going  
25                 to look at some general background information so we're

1           able to set the scene for your time in Quarriers.  
2           Secondly, I'll go on and ask you about some of your  
3           experiences in Quarriers. At the end, the third part  
4           will be to ask you about any more recent contact you've  
5           had with Quarriers and also the effect that your  
6           experiences in Quarriers have had upon you in your adult  
7           life. Okay?

8           A. Yes.

9           Q. So simply to start with, when we're looking at you  
10          coming into Quarriers, you do tell us in your statement  
11          that there were particularly tragic events which led to  
12          you coming into Quarriers; is that right?

13          A. That's correct.

14          Q. Can you tell us a little bit about that?

15          A. I was only about 5, 6 years old at the time; I only  
16          remember my age vaguely. I was at school. I came home  
17          at lunchtime and -- I always came home at lunchtime  
18          following school in the morning. I came home through  
19          the front door of the house -- we lived in Glasgow  
20          at the time -- and went into the house and I shouted for  
21          my mother because my mother was generally speaking at  
22          home every day.

23                 When I went into the house, I ran up the hallway to  
24                 greet my mother and looked into the kitchen and my  
25                 mother was lying on the floor. I didn't know at that

1           time, but shortly afterwards I was made aware that my  
2           mother had died. I walked in and found her.

3           Q. It was against that background that you and I think  
4           a sibling were admitted to Quarriers; is that right?

5           A. That's correct, yes. My dad worked and handled it as  
6           best he possibly could under the circumstances, but over  
7           the duration of time, initially we were moved to another  
8           member of the family, but all my aunts and uncles had  
9           large families of their own so they were fully committed  
10          to their own families and they were unable to take care  
11          of my elder sister and myself. The decision was taken,  
12          however, that we would be placed within  
13          Quarrier's Village.

14          Q. You tell us in your statement that you're unclear about  
15          dates that occurred as a child and you've tried to be as  
16          accurate as you can. You recall that you went into  
17          Quarriers, you think, in 1960 when you would have been  
18          about 6 years old?

19          A. Approximately, yes.

20          Q. And you thought it was shortly after the death of your  
21          mother?

22          A. Yes.

23          Q. You also tell us that you were there for two and a half  
24          to three years.

25          A. Yes.

- 1 Q. You've never asked for your records?
- 2 A. No, never.
- 3 Q. Well, just to confirm we have seen records from
- 4 Quarriers, and those give precise dates. What those
- 5 records say is that you were admitted on [REDACTED] 1961
- 6 and that you were discharged from Quarriers on
- 7 [REDACTED] 1962. So that's a rather different date and
- 8 timescale, but obviously it's fair to say that at the
- 9 time you were a young child who was very much grieving
- 10 for your mother; would that be fair?
- 11 A. I was very vague with regards to the dates, and even
- 12 today, it's entirely -- the first time I've really known
- 13 the dates that I have given were not quite right.
- 14 My mother and I were very close, without saying any
- 15 more about that, but I was very close to my mum, and the
- 16 loss of my mother was a huge shock to me. I had no
- 17 doubt that at that time it confused me, made me mixed
- 18 up, upset me, and at the end of the day I was only
- 19 a little boy.
- 20 Q. When you went into Quarriers, can you remember which
- 21 cottage you lived in?
- 22 A. Yes, it was cottage 13.
- 23 Q. Who were your house parents there?
- 24 A. A couple called [REDACTED] QDW/QDX
- 25 Q. You had a sibling who went with you into Quarriers as

1 well; is that right?

2 A. Yes, that's correct: my older sister.

3 Q. Was she in the same cottage as you?

4 A. She was, yes.

5 Q. At this stage I'm going to move on to the second part  
6 and start to ask you about your experiences in that  
7 cottage in Quarriers.

8 Tell me, what do you remember about your first  
9 impression of Quarriers and your first day there?

10 A. It was a sad day. It was a sad day because I was  
11 leaving my ... My mother was no longer with us and, in  
12 my opinion, my father was leaving me, and -- a very  
13 unhappy day. It was just my sister and myself that had  
14 to survive at that point. My dad was no longer within  
15 the picture. It was very unhappy.

16 Q. Do you remember having any understanding of why you were  
17 going there?

18 A. We were told that my father was unable to look after us  
19 and we were going to a place where they would look after  
20 us and take care of us. That was as much as the  
21 explanation that was given.

22 Q. QDW/QDX can you tell me what your  
23 impressions were of them as house parents?

24 A. I ... I didn't feel comfortable, I didn't feel at ease,  
25 frightened. The people who were going to look after me

1 were totally unknown to me and with no proper  
2 explanation. My dad just said that we were to stay here  
3 and I believed that my elder sister was so much older  
4 than I was and she understood a bit more about it than  
5 I did. I just wanted my dad. I didn't want to be  
6 anywhere else. And my sister and I were very, very  
7 close and remained so throughout our time at Quarriers.

8 Q. You seem to be describing a very confused and sad wee  
9 boy.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Did you have any sense at the time that QDW  
12 QDX understood that or understood that you were  
13 grieving for your mother?

14 A. Whether -- I can't tell what they were thinking, but  
15 I don't believe that they were interested in what my  
16 problems were. I had my own problems, obviously, with  
17 my mum passing away and I don't believe that they  
18 were -- had a true understanding of what we were going  
19 through.

20 Q. QDW/QDX did they have children of their own at  
21 all?

22 A. There was [REDACTED] Now, I don't remember  
23 whether they belonged to the QDW/QDX or whether they  
24 were children that they had more or less taken in,  
25 fostered. But I remember [REDACTED] who lived

1 a different life within the cottage than we did. They  
2 were the [REDACTED] QDW/QDX

3 Q. Can you tell me a wee bit more about -- you say they  
4 lived a different life. In what way was their life  
5 different to yours?

6 A. They were more relaxed, playful, happy. They weren't  
7 treated the same as the other children were. We weren't  
8 allowed to do so many things, but they could do it  
9 because -- they could go into the parlour, we weren't  
10 allowed into the parlour. They just lived a different  
11 life.

12 Q. They were allowed to do things that you couldn't. Was  
13 the treatment of [REDACTED] more favourable --

14 A. Yes, it was --

15 Q. -- or less favourable?

16 A. -- it was how -- I would describe it as how I would  
17 treat my own family, the way they were treated. They  
18 had more freedom and certainly were so much happier than  
19 the average child.

20 Q. You mention being treated as a family. Can I take it  
21 from that then that you didn't feel that you were being  
22 treated as a member of the [REDACTED] QDW/QDX family?

23 A. I wasn't a member of the family. I was, in my opinion,  
24 where I'm coming from now is that I was an inconvenience  
25 and just part of the job that had to be done.

- 1 Q. Can you help me with some numbers? How many children  
2 were in cottage 13 do you think?
- 3 A. I'm not exactly sure how many there would be. I would  
4 say there was 12. Certainly double figures. I was  
5 barely able to count in those days. Just there was  
6 a lot of people, a lot of children.
- 7 Q. Your sister was there too, so was it a mixed cottage  
8 with boys and girls?
- 9 A. It was boys and girls, although we were kept apart.  
10 Although my sister and I were of the same family,  
11 we were kept apart. We were allowed to associate with  
12 each other, but not remain close to each other.
- 13 Q. By that, do you mean in terms of the sleeping  
14 arrangements or was that separation carried on to other  
15 parts of cottage life?
- 16 A. Obviously, the sleeping arrangements, the girls  
17 stayed -- had their own accommodation and the boys had  
18 their accommodation. All within the one cottage, but  
19 under normal routine, everyday run-of-the-mill life, it  
20 was not the done thing for my sister and I to be  
21 associating with each other at all times, which we did  
22 try and do, but we were separated.
- 23 Q. The children in the cottage, how old were they in terms  
24 of age range? About how old was the youngest child  
25 there, do you think?

1           A.  At that time I think I was one of probably the youngest  
2           children and they ranged up to -- my sister would be --  
3           in those days, she would be about 11, 12 years old, 13  
4           perhaps.  There were some teenagers in the -- older  
5           children in the cottage.

6           Q.  I'm going to ask you now a bit about the routine in  
7           cottage 13.  At page 0252, paragraphs 14 onwards, you  
8           tell us a bit about the routine in mornings and bedtime.

9           A.  Yes.

10          Q.  Can you describe what happened in the morning, for  
11          example when you got up?  Was there a general routine  
12          there?

13          A.  The normal routine would be you were wakened up at  
14          whatever time -- time was of no consequence to me and  
15          one time of the day was much the same as another.  
16          We would be woken up, we would get dressed, washed,  
17          dressed, and we would be coming downstairs for  
18          breakfast.  I don't even remember what we would get for  
19          breakfast, but I was a very picky child, I must admit.  
20          I didn't like so many things.  But my sister, she used  
21          to more or less eat anything.  She would eat anything.

22                 I would -- at breakfast time, if I didn't like what  
23          was there for breakfast, I would try and pass to my  
24          sister and she would try and eat it.

25          Q.  Why did you feel you had to pass it to your sister?

1 A. You eat what you were given and you had no choice. It  
2 was a case of: that's what's for breakfast, that's  
3 what's for dinner or lunch, that's what's for your  
4 evening meal and you will eat it. You didn't have  
5 a choice. I couldn't eat it, I felt sick on many an  
6 occasion with the food that we were given.

7 Q. What would happen to you or any other children if they  
8 didn't eat it?

9 A. They would verbally try and force us to eat it. If  
10 I didn't, my head would be pushed and they forced me or  
11 to get my head down closer to the plate and eat it or  
12 they would take -- try and force it into my mouth.  
13 I just wouldn't eat it.

14 Q. Who was doing this to you, trying to force it into your  
15 mouth?

16 A. Mainly **QDX** the house parent, and **QDW**  
17 he was always there and he was the man in authority. It  
18 was ... It was instilling fear into you that you had to  
19 eat it. I just wouldn't and it would be taken from me  
20 and I would be shouted at, pushed around, dragged from  
21 the table, all sorts of things, if I wouldn't eat my  
22 meals.

23 Q. What you've described, did that happen to just you or  
24 other children as well?

25 A. That was common, that was a common occurrence. I wasn't

1 the only one that didn't like such-and-such a food.  
2 We were all pernickety in our own ways, I suppose, and  
3 there were numerous children who wouldn't eat their  
4 food.

5 Q. QDW/QDX and [REDACTED] that you described, did  
6 they eat at the table with the children?

7 A. No. QDW/QDX had their own eating facilities.  
8 They would eat -- I'm not sure whether they ate in the  
9 parlour, it wasn't ... It wasn't part of our ability to  
10 see their own ... and on occasions, if you didn't eat  
11 one meal, you got it for another. You still wouldn't  
12 eat it so you didn't get anything else. It was quite  
13 harsh.

14 Q. Turning now to washing and bathing, what were the  
15 arrangements for children having a bath, for example,  
16 in the cottage?

17 A. I remember there was no showers that I remember and we  
18 had a bath once a week. You had to wash and do your  
19 ablutions, wash your face, wash your hands, brush your  
20 teeth, every morning. You had to brush your teeth after  
21 breakfast and then we went to school on Monday to  
22 Friday.

23 Q. The bath, if I ask you to look at your statement, it  
24 should be in front of you on the screen at paragraph 21,  
25 0254. In your statement you've told us that you must

1           have had a bath every week and you don't know which day.  
2           You say that the bathwater was shared and the children  
3           went in one after another; is that correct?

4           A. That's correct. It was ... I remember it was cold,  
5           cold. It was a cold feeling. Sometimes depending on  
6           which position you were in with regards to who had the  
7           bath first, the water would be quite warm, on other  
8           occasions it would be quite cold.

9           Q. Do you remember whether the bath was refilled?

10          A. I don't remember the bath ever being refilled for me to  
11          get into it at all. I don't remember.

12          Q. You have described depending on where you were having  
13          the bath how the water may not be warm any more. Do you  
14          remember how clean the water was for someone who was  
15          having the sort of cooler bath?

16          A. I've had cleaner baths. I've had a lot cleaner baths in  
17          my lifetime. But I don't actually -- I can't say that  
18          the water was filthy, murky, more than dirty.

19          Q. In terms of clothing, you'll see at the paragraph below,  
20          paragraph 22, you're telling us about clothing. You  
21          tell us that:

22                 "There wasn't a uniform and you might have a blue  
23                 shirt one day and the next boy might have a green shirt;  
24                 it was whatever you were given."

25                 Did you have your own clothes in the cottage, so if

1           yours was a blue shirt, would you always get that blue  
2           shirt?

3           A. No, no, there was no particular clothing allocated to  
4           me. I would get what was available, what was,  
5           I suppose, clean, but, no, I had no chest of drawers  
6           where my own clothes were placed and I could take  
7           a shirt or socks or anything. I wore what I was given.

8           Q. So you might be wearing the blue shirt one day and  
9           then --

10          A. And the chap next door would be wearing it the following  
11          day, yes.

12          Q. And you mentioned school. Describe your feelings and  
13          experiences about school.

14          A. Where the cottage was -- when you went into the gate of  
15          Quarrier's Homes, we used to turn left to cottage 13 and  
16          there were roads leading off of the cottages and they  
17          all met into one main drive, which went down to the  
18          school.

19                 I used to look forward to going to school. I had,  
20                 which I still have today, a passion for learning things,  
21                 new things. I'm at the age where I am today and I still  
22                 love to learn new things and I was very much like that  
23                 as a child.

24                 I wasn't like a sponge that when someone told me  
25                 something, I remembered it, but I used to love going to

1 school, learning new things. I enjoyed my time at  
2 school. I felt safe, comfortable, and I enjoyed --  
3 I just enjoyed learning.

4 Q. I think over the page at 0255, paragraph 25, you tell us  
5 that at school you would get stars for reciting the  
6 maths tables --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- and some form of praise, and school was a good place  
9 to be, and you were treated the same as everyone else  
10 and you were away from the **QDW/QDX**

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. The mention of praise: how important was receiving  
13 praise for you when you were a child?

14 A. Praise was something that I very rarely received since  
15 leaving home. It was a good feeling to know that I was  
16 doing something right and someone was pleased with me.  
17 It was a nice feeling, a comforting feeling, that I was  
18 able to do something that pleased somebody. I did want  
19 to please people, I did want to please people.

20 Q. When comparing school to cottage 13, and you made  
21 a comparison in that paragraph, was praise anything you  
22 ever received in cottage 13 from **QDW/QDX**

23 A. There was no praise. There was no love. No care for my  
24 individual requirements that I was aware of. They  
25 just -- I looked forward to going to school because it

1 got me out of a situation, away from that environment --  
2 I didn't know it was an environment at that time -- it  
3 just got me away from there and I could be an ordinary  
4 child. I was able to be myself and I was able to have  
5 the comfort of my sister.

6 Q. Do I take it that the lack of encouragement or  
7 preventing you in some way from associating with your  
8 sister in the cottage, that arrangement didn't apply at  
9 school, you were able to spend --

10 A. I was able to see her out in the playground, played with  
11 her, we ran about, sat and we just talked made sure each  
12 other was okay. There was no separation.

13 Q. So George, what about homework? Was there a place  
14 in the cottage -- did you get homework and was there  
15 a place to study and do your homework in the cottage?

16 A. I don't remember doing homework as such. The only thing  
17 I seem to remember is that I used to tell my big sister  
18 what I had learned and what she had learned and she  
19 would pass on some of her knowledge to me a bit.  
20 I don't remember ever doing homework as such.

21 Q. So your sister showed an interest in your schoolwork.  
22 What about the QDW/QDX Did they ask you how school  
23 was that day and what you'd learned or anything of that  
24 nature?

25 A. No. No, I was never -- school was school and home was

1 home. They were not in the same parallel.

2 Q. What about on Sundays? What was the arrangement or the  
3 routine on a Sunday?

4 A. On a Sunday, it was a bit different. There would be  
5 a Bible -- a verse from the Bible written on  
6 a blackboard. You were given a bit of time when we came  
7 home -- well, in the morning we went to a church  
8 service. I don't think it was a church, it was actually  
9 more of a Sunday school for children, it wasn't a proper  
10 church service that I remember. Then when we came back  
11 to the cottage, we had to memorise a verse from the  
12 Bible.

13 It was quite difficult. I was just learning to  
14 read. I wasn't a proficient reader at that time. And,  
15 if I'm honest about it, I was never able to do it. It  
16 just didn't sink in. I tried, I did try, but ...

17 Q. I think in your statement you suggest that if someone  
18 could recite it, then they would get a sweet; is that  
19 right?

20 A. Yes, uh-huh. If you were able to read it, memorise it,  
21 you read it like this on a board (indicating), and then  
22 you had to turn round away from the board so that you  
23 couldn't see the board and repeat it. If you did -- and  
24 I remember quite clearly and plainly, it was -- silly as  
25 it may seem, it was a sweetie called a jelly mallow, and

- 1           that's what they had every week. My sister, she got  
2           hers quite often, but I never, ever. Never managed it.  
3           Never managed it.
- 4        Q. None of the children were given a sweet for trying, for  
5           trying their best?
- 6        A. No, only if you were successful did you get the sweetie.  
7           You know, there was no, "Oh, that was a good try, you  
8           were almost there". Nothing like that at all, just  
9           "Right, on you go, you didn't, you get nothing".
- 10       Q. I think you make the point in your statement that your  
11           sister, when she'd get the sweet, was not allowed to  
12           share it with you?
- 13       A. She wasn't allowed to share it with me. It was in two  
14           halves, it was in two bars, and she would get one and  
15           try and get one to me, but she wasn't allowed to: "He  
16           didn't earn it, it's not his".
- 17       Q. Okay. In terms of bedtime routine, you tell us about  
18           that at 0253 at paragraph 17. What was involved in the  
19           bedtime routine and getting ready for bed?
- 20       A. I don't remember what time it was, but it was the same  
21           time every night. More or less the same as what I done  
22           with my own children in later years. But bedtime was  
23           bedtime. No matter what was happening, you would be  
24           sent up the stairs. Get ready for bed, take your  
25           clothes off, put them in a pile, folded -- I had to fold

1 my jumper in a certain way and my trousers, and we all  
2 wore short trousers in those days, there was no long  
3 trousers, and they had to be folded properly in  
4 a certain way, and if they weren't, they were picked up  
5 and, "Do it again", you know. They had to be done in  
6 a certain way.

7 We were sent to our beds, and once you were in bed,  
8 it was lights out, no reading, no talking. You went to  
9 sleep.

10 Q. In terms of leisure time, were you ever given time to go  
11 out and play and do various activities?

12 A. There was ... You were not allowed out of the confines.  
13 Quarriers was, still is, because I have visited since,  
14 but that will come later -- it's a self-contained  
15 village. It had a swing park. There was other  
16 children. You did get leisure time, but you weren't  
17 allowed outwith the confines of the village. That was  
18 a cardinal sin, to go through the gate or over the  
19 wall -- there was a very small wall around the village.

20 We were not allowed to play with kids' toys as we  
21 wanted to. You were given a toy and that was your toy.  
22 That was my toy and I wasn't allowed to play with that  
23 one (indicating). There were restrictions on your type  
24 of play.

25 Q. Who was placing those restrictions on play?

1 A. [REDACTED] QDW/QDX They were always there. There was  
2 no respite from it whatsoever. They were always there  
3 watching what you were doing, checking and that -- and  
4 obviously if I saw a car, I wanted to play with it, and  
5 I would be chastised for that, shouted at, taken off me.  
6 You had no freedom of play.

7 Q. You mention in your statement that there was a snooker  
8 table in the cottage. Was that something the children  
9 could play with?

10 A. Sorry?

11 Q. You mention in your statement that there was a snooker  
12 table in the cottage. Was that something the children  
13 could play with?

14 A. No, it was covered. The snooker -- it was a very large,  
15 well, what looked very large to me, and I could just  
16 barely see on top of it when I held on to it. It was  
17 covered by a board of some description with a cloth,  
18 a bit of sheet or something over it. So, no, we weren't  
19 allowed to play with that. We always just thought it  
20 was for [REDACTED] QDW/QDX That was theirs and it  
21 didn't belong to us.

22 Q. You say in your statement that you could play after tea  
23 but only if you'd been well-behaved and done your  
24 chores. I know chores is a particular issue and I'll  
25 come back to that later on, but at this stage, moving on

1 to birthdays and Christmases, do you remember your  
2 birthday being marked or celebrated in any way?

3 A. Christmas and birthdays were more or less just other  
4 days. There was no Santa Claus as such. Your birthday  
5 was never marked by a cake or a card or even a candle.  
6 It was just another day. I didn't even know when my  
7 birthday was in those days.

8 Q. We know from the records that you were in Quarriers for  
9 a much shorter time than perhaps it felt to you, but you  
10 would have been able to see whether other children had  
11 birthdays.

12 A. There were no birthdays celebrated as far as the  
13 children were concerned. I don't truthfully even  
14 remember whether [REDACTED] celebrated their birthday or  
15 not. There was no ... I didn't know it was my  
16 birthday, although I know I was in there for my birthday  
17 now that you've given me the dates. I'm fully aware  
18 that I was there, but my birthday was never  
19 celebrated -- and neither was my elder sister's because  
20 her birthday is two days after mine. So I know we never  
21 had a birthday. We had a birthday but it wasn't  
22 celebrated.

23 Q. I'm going to ask you now about visits. Did you have any  
24 visits from members of your family or friends or  
25 anything of that kind while you were there that you can

- 1           remember?
- 2       A.   At the time I had no visitors.  My father never came to  
3           see us.  At the time I was unaware whether any other  
4           members of the family came to see us.  It was in later  
5           life that I was made aware by one of my father's  
6           brothers that he used to come every two weeks to see us.  
7           Now, I don't know whether he was -- he didn't say  
8           he wasn't allowed to actually physically see us or he  
9           just sort of ...  But he said that he used to see us but  
10          we never saw him, and he was there every two weeks to  
11          see us.
- 12       Q.   So he perhaps was able to observe you but you weren't  
13          able to see him?
- 14       A.   There was no contact.  There was no contact.  Now,  
15          I don't know whether -- and he didn't tell me whether it  
16          was suggested to him that it would be better if you  
17          didn't speak to the children, but you can see them.  But  
18          he never suggested that to me.  I'm only -- I feel that  
19          on reflection today, when I think about my uncle, that  
20          he would have wanted to see us because he loved children  
21          and he had a big family, he had seven children of his  
22          own.
- 23       Q.   And he had obviously travelled to Quarrier's Village,  
24          which is --
- 25       A.   Yes.

- 1 Q. -- somewhat remote.
- 2 A. He lived in Glasgow. He was a Glasgow man all his life  
3 and he was a businessman, he had his own business, and  
4 quite well to do. He used to, according to him, come  
5 and see us every two weeks. That was the only visits  
6 that we had from anybody.
- 7 Q. Do you remember whether there were any official visitors  
8 when you were in cottage 13? Did someone come in to  
9 check on the children or inspect what was going on?
- 10 A. I remember there was no unknown people coming into the  
11 cottage that we didn't know. So I would have to say,  
12 no, I don't remember any people who were in authority  
13 coming to make sure everything was okay.
- 14 Q. You say in your statement at paragraph 36 on  
15 page 0257 -- at the foot there, it says:  
16 QDW/QDX never asked us about our health  
17 and well-being and welfare. It was simply a business  
18 relationship for them and not about caring for  
19 children."
- 20 Can you help me with what you mean by "it was  
21 a business relationship"?
- 22 A. In my opinion it wasn't about two adults looking after  
23 a group of children, it was two adults who were employed  
24 by someone to be there. They never done much for us at  
25 all. They showed no love whatsoever, no caring, no

1 understanding, and I know that -- and I appreciate that  
2 I was probably a bit of a problem child due to the  
3 circumstances of what happened, but they gave me no  
4 help, understanding, love, to try and see me over the  
5 hard time in my life.

6 Q. You described yourself and that you may have been what  
7 you suggested was a problem child. Let's be clear about  
8 this. You're a child who's lost his mother. Was there  
9 anything else about your circumstances to suggest that  
10 you would be a problem?

11 A. No, I just feel that from the fact that I lost my  
12 mother, I found my mother passed away on the floor, that  
13 I must have been mixed up. I was a mixed-up child.  
14 Couldn't sort it out. I couldn't comprehend what the  
15 gravity of the situation was. And all I wanted was my  
16 mum and my dad.

17 Q. On the subject of healthcare, I see that I think from  
18 what you say that you generally kept good health in the  
19 cottage, although you do mention that perhaps when you  
20 were older, you started to lose your hearing.

21 A. That's correct. From what I understand now, I have --  
22 I won't say I've been deaf, but I have been hard of  
23 hearing since I was a baby. I've worn hearing aids --  
24 as the inquiry can see, I've worn hearing aids now since  
25 I was about 13, 12, 13. Initially, I wore one in my

1 left ear and I've now got two and I'm now classified as  
2 profoundly deaf. Hence I have the most powerful hearing  
3 aids that are on the market, but I'm classified as  
4 profoundly deaf.

5 Q. Moving to the subject of running away, you've said  
6 in the statement that:

7 "Different children ran away from different  
8 cottages. They didn't get far. They were caught in  
9 Bridge of Weir. The locals knew the children as we  
10 stood out as Quarriers kids. [You] never ran away and  
11 neither did [your] sister."

12 Talking about running away, is that something about  
13 other children that you learned later in life or do you  
14 remember as a child that --

15 A. I do remember other children -- I won't say running away  
16 because I didn't know it was called running away, I'll  
17 say leaving the confines of the village, and that was  
18 just not acceptable, not under any circumstances.

19 Q. Was that children from your cottage or was it other  
20 cottages?

21 A. Other cottages. I don't remember anyone specifically  
22 from our cottage.

23 Q. Did you ever hear what happened to children who left the  
24 confines of the village?

25 A. Not really, no. It wasn't a topic of conversation.

1 I can't say that I'm aware. I have learned later in  
2 time, just gone by, what has happened, but I don't --  
3 I can't say I remember other children being, whatever,  
4 running away.

5 Q. On the subject of bed-wetting, that's not something you  
6 remember issues about?

7 A. I never had an issue with that sort of thing. I've  
8 always had an issue with sleeping. I can't just turn  
9 a switch on and go to sleep. I've always had an issue  
10 with that. But I've never had an issue with bed-wetting  
11 that I remember, even as a very young child.

12 Q. Were you aware whether any other children in the cottage  
13 had that issue?

14 A. There was bed-wetters, yes.

15 Q. Can you remember how the bed-wetters were treated or  
16 managed when they wet the bed?

17 A. They were frowned upon. I can't say they were beaten or  
18 how they were really ... It was not a nice thing to do,  
19 dirty, it was disgusting.

20 Q. Who used the words "dirty" and "disgusting"?

21 A. **QDW/QDX** "You wet the bed again [not myself but to  
22 a child who has], that's dirty, filthy, you disgusting  
23 boy", things like that.

24 Q. And because you know about it, I presume that they were  
25 doing this in front of other children?

1 A. In front of you. There was no -- nothing was done in  
2 private, nothing was done in private.

3 Q. We mentioned chores --

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. -- earlier on. I said I would come back to that because  
6 I think that's quite a difficult subject for you. What  
7 kind of chores did you have to do?

8 A. Mine was mainly cleaning the shoes of everyone in the  
9 cottage.

10 LADY SMITH: Did that include [REDACTED] shoes?

11 A. Yes. Yes, madam.

12 They were all laid out in a row and you had to work  
13 your way from one end of the shoes, and there was adult  
14 shoes there too. There were big shoes there. We didn't  
15 know they were adult shoes, they were just big shoes.  
16 You had to clean them all, which I had quite  
17 a difficulty with because I didn't have the coordination  
18 of ... And I found it quite difficult.

19 MS RATTRAY: Did anything happen if you didn't clean them  
20 properly or --

21 A. Yes. If I was cleaning the shoes and they weren't  
22 satisfactory, I would be pushed down into the shoes, my  
23 head would be pushed right down into the shoes, "Get  
24 them cleaned", and they'd slap you on the back of the  
25 head, "Get them cleaned properly".

- 1 Q. Who was slapping you and saying these things?
- 2 A. QDW QDW He was the -- in my opinion,  
3 in my words, he was the one that abused me on those  
4 occasions by hitting me and pushing me. He would  
5 stick -- push my head down into the insides of the shoes  
6 and hold my head down.
- 7 Q. At paragraph 47 on page 0260, you also describe similar  
8 treatment being given to your sister.
- 9 A. Yes. My sister was so much older than me and she would  
10 be chastised in the same way and she would take them off  
11 me and try and do them quickly before anybody would see  
12 so that I wouldn't get into bother. But she got the  
13 same form of treatment as I did.
- 14 Q. At paragraph 49 of your statement I think you describe  
15 other chores that children in the cottage had to do.  
16 Can you help me with that? What other chores did  
17 children have to do?
- 18 A. They had laundry, washing. There was no washing  
19 machines in those days, it was big sinks and they would  
20 be washing the clothes on a board with soap, scrubbing  
21 them. There would be ironing, of a fashion, because we  
22 had to do -- the children had to do for the children and  
23 the clothes were, I'll say, dampened with an iron, but  
24 not ironed properly.
- 25 Q. I think you say that you had to fold your clothes in

- 1 a certain way --
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. -- and you've referred to that. And if you didn't,
- 4 you'd be physically abused?
- 5 A. Yes, uh-huh.
- 6 Q. What happened if you didn't fold your clothes in the
- 7 right way?
- 8 A. They would be picked up and thrown at you. Made to pick
- 9 them up, slapped, pushed to another part of the bed, you
- 10 know, the end of the bed to get them folded properly.
- 11 You would be -- they would slap you, shout at you, call
- 12 you an idiot, "You're stupid".
- 13 Q. And how were children chastised? With physical
- 14 chastisement, you referred to slapping. Did **QDW**
- 15 use his hands or did he use something else?
- 16 A. It was his hands, generally his hands, and it was
- 17 habitual, it was constant, it was all the time, it never
- 18 stopped. You knew if you stepped out of line, you were
- 19 getting a slap.
- 20 Q. What about **QDX** Did she --
- 21 A. **QDX** was more of a shouter than a hitter and she
- 22 was quite vicious in terminology towards you. We were
- 23 all idiots, we were stupid and, "You will do what you're
- 24 told".
- 25 Q. I think you refer to demeaning comments --

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. -- being made by the QDW/QDX at paragraph 45 in your  
3 statement at 0259. Can you see that?
- 4 A. Yes. I loved my parents and I loved my parents very  
5 much and I dearly missed my mother. And I loved my  
6 father and I used to keep saying to them every day, "My  
7 daddy's coming to get me, my daddy's coming to get me".  
8 "Your dad's not coming to get you. Your dad doesn't  
9 want you. He's not coming to get you". I said, "My  
10 daddy's coming to get me", and they kept demeaning me,  
11 saying, "You're not loved, he doesn't love you, he  
12 doesn't want you, that's why you're here. Do you think  
13 you'd be here if your dad wanted you? He's got no time  
14 for you now".
- 15 Q. Who was saying this to you?
- 16 A. QDW/QDX both said those things to me.
- 17 Q. How did that make you feel?
- 18 A. Sad, unhappy, angry. But I never, never, never accepted  
19 what they said because I knew that one day my dad would  
20 come back.
- 21 Q. You say that your sister tried to help you at that  
22 stage.
- 23 A. She tried to protect me. She would go, "Shush, don't  
24 say that, don't say that". And I'd say, "My dad's  
25 coming to get me".

1 Q. What would happen when your sister was trying to protect  
2 you?

3 A. She would be told off and pushed away. On occasions she  
4 got a slap around the back to get away from me and leave  
5 me alone. She was always standing in the middle.

6 I think she was trying to take on some of the beatings  
7 for me.

8 Q. You referred to this behaviour as being constant. By  
9 that, did it happen every day or every week or every  
10 month?

11 A. Every day.

12 Q. It was a daily occurrence?

13 A. I remember there wasn't a day went past or a night of  
14 the day went past when something would happen. It was  
15 as if it was the natural thing to do to you, to knock  
16 you about, shout at you, be bad to you. It became a way  
17 of life.

18 Q. George, you tell us at paragraph 44 that when you were  
19 adults your sister told you about something else that  
20 had happened to her.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Can you help me with that and tell me what she told you?

23 A. After my sister had left home and she had got married,  
24 and I had left home and I had got married, we had many  
25 an occasion to just sit and talk about us. She was

1           telling me, "I know you had a bad time. I know you had  
2           a bad time, but it wasn't quite as bad as me". I said,  
3           "We both got the same treatment", and she said, "No.  
4           Not only did I get the physical violence, but I got  
5           sexual violence. I was sexually abused at night-time".  
6           She went into some detail, but not graphic detail  
7           because at that time I couldn't cope with it.

8           Q. Are you able to help us at all as to what happened to  
9           your sister at night-time?

10          A. Yes. She was touched. The clothing removed from her  
11          private parts by QDW She didn't explicitly say  
12          that total intercourse had taken place, but she implied  
13          it, but not actually physically saying it. All I could  
14          say was, "I'm sorry. I should have protected you. As  
15          your brother, I should have stopped it, but I couldn't.  
16          I couldn't".

17          Q. That wasn't something you were aware of when you were  
18          a small boy in Quarriers?

19          A. No. But in later life, you become aware of these things  
20          and you feel so sad that you were unable to do that for  
21          her. Since then, I've protected her all my life. She's  
22          now in her 70s and to this day I still protect her.

23          Q. Were you able to tell anyone when you were a child in  
24          Quarriers about what was happening to you and other  
25          children in cottage 13?

1 A. There was no one to tell. There was no one to tell.  
2 You couldn't go to the QDW/QDX because they were the  
3 people that were doing it. What's the point in telling  
4 them? And at school, I never told anyone. I accepted  
5 it. I accepted it as routine. It wasn't just me it was  
6 happening to, it was happening to all the children. So  
7 it became a way of life. What's the point in telling  
8 anyone?

9 I did later on in life have occasions for it to be  
10 broached, put it that way; no doubt it'll come out  
11 later.

12 Q. So I'm going to move on to the third part of my  
13 questions that I explained at the outset and just ask  
14 you now about after you left Quarriers. You were  
15 discharged by Quarriers and you went back to live with  
16 your family.

17 A. Yes. I went back to live with my father and my  
18 stepmother. My father had since remarried.

19 Q. How did you feel about leaving Quarriers?

20 A. Elated. So excited. I said, "Told you my dad was  
21 coming to get me. I told you my dad was coming to get  
22 me". That was on the day that my dad was coming to get  
23 us, when we were aware that he was on his way to pick us  
24 up. I kept going, "I told you my dad was coming to get  
25 me". She said, "Just get up the stairs and get any

1 stuff that you've got".

2 But I was elated. I was so happy. I didn't know my  
3 dad had remarried, I was unaware of that at the time.

4 I thought it was my dad that was coming to get me.

5 Q. You have told us about your life after leaving care and  
6 we have that in the statement and it's certainly been  
7 read very carefully. But at paragraph 57 at page 0263,  
8 you tell us that, not long after you married, you told  
9 your wife about what happened to you at Quarriers.

10 A. Yes, I got ...

11 Q. And you told her you needed to go to Quarriers to see  
12 them?

13 A. I got married in 1976. [REDACTED] was a lovely person, she  
14 was so caring, so loving. I told her, "I have to tell  
15 you". We were married at that time. I told her the  
16 whole story and I said, "I need to go back to Quarriers.  
17 I need to go back to Quarriers". We were married in  
18 [REDACTED] 1976, so this would be about 1977. I said,  
19 "I need to go back and do something for those children  
20 in Quarriers". She said, "What are you going to do?"  
21 I said, "I'm going to take a load of toys to Quarriers.  
22 Those kids need toys".

23 In those days I had a company van, a small van,  
24 a small Escort van. I went to the toy shop and I don't  
25 remember how much I spent -- it must have been £400/£500

1 I spent on toys.

2 I took them to Quarriers Homes and I was going to  
3 take them to one of the cottages and I thought, "No,  
4 I'll take them to the office". I went to the office,  
5 went to the reception, spoke to one of the ladies that  
6 were in the office, told them that I was a Quarriers  
7 child in years gone by and I've got some toys for the  
8 children.

9 I had no children of my own at that time, I was just  
10 newly married, and the woman said to me, "Oh, we don't  
11 take toys ". I said, "I beg your pardon?" She said,  
12 "We don't take toys. If you give us the money, we'll  
13 take the money, but we won't take toys". I said, "I'm  
14 afraid the money's gone as I've got the toys". And  
15 I took the toys and I left Quarriers. That was my last  
16 contact with Quarriers. I took the toys to the  
17 hospitals to give them to children's wards.

18 Q. And your toys were accepted in children's wards?

19 A. Oh, very much so. They were greatly received. They  
20 were new toys, they weren't second-hand toys, they were  
21 all new toys from the toy shop. I wanted to do  
22 something for the children because it stuck in my head  
23 and the memories that we didn't have those things. And  
24 I was in a position where I could help, I could do  
25 something, and it was rejected.

1 Q. How did that rejection make you feel?

2 A. Disgusted. I was upset. Yes, I suppose I was even  
3 angry. But I just walked away and went, "What can I do  
4 now?" and I took the toys to local hospitals and gave  
5 them to the children's wards.

6 Q. George, turning to impact, can you help us and maybe  
7 summarise what effect your experiences in Quarriers have  
8 had upon you as an adult?

9 A. I think it starts before I actually became an adult.  
10 I think it starts when I left Quarriers. I came back  
11 home to my father and my stepmother, which was quite  
12 difficult for me because I was -- I still dearly loved  
13 my own mother and that was my mum; this was a woman that  
14 wasn't really my mother.

15 It took me a long time to accept the fact and I was  
16 sent to child guidance clinics for psychological help.  
17 I became a teenager, I was still having problems dealing  
18 with it. I got myself seriously into trouble with the  
19 law until, as I say, I moved into adulthood and I got  
20 married to a beautiful person and we had two children  
21 and we loved them dearly.

22 Perhaps I feel that in adult life, I always  
23 compensated with my own children to ensure that at all  
24 times they were fully aware that they were loved and  
25 cared for. Unfortunately, my wife passed away when she

1 was 42, 23 years ago my wife passed away, 23 years ago.  
2 And my children, my youngest child was only 15, and ...  
3 A very sad, sad time. However, seven years later, I was  
4 very fortunate to meet someone else and she's a lovely  
5 lady and I'm very happy.

6 I just feel that my time in Quarriers has -- it's  
7 all part of my make-up, the time in Quarriers, the time  
8 being psychologically assessed at child guidance  
9 clinics, the times that I got into trouble with the  
10 police, and then as an adult my wife was straightening  
11 me out. It's all part of who I am today. Some good and  
12 some bad. More good than bad.

13 Q. George, on the last page of your statement, 0266,  
14 paragraph 67, you speak about wanting to try to prevent  
15 these things happening to other children now and in the  
16 future. You state that:

17 "These residential places are not necessarily all  
18 bad."

19 You say that:

20 "I think these things still go on in Quarriers Homes  
21 and nothing has changed."

22 Can you help me with that? Why is it that you think  
23 bad things -- and I presume you mean abuse -- still goes  
24 on in Quarriers Homes? What makes you say that?

25 A. I just feel that the level of abuse that I have

1 received, other children received, and things that  
2 I saw, things that happened to me, I don't believe that  
3 it was just one person or two people. I believe it was  
4 widespread throughout the system.

5 As you grow older, you become more wise, you become  
6 more susceptible, knowledgeable, have the ability to  
7 understand what's happening in life. And I don't  
8 believe that just because 40 years or 50 years have  
9 passed that these things will stop.

10 We were aware of child abuse in Victorian times.  
11 Here we were in the 20th century and it's still  
12 happening. And we are aware, here we are in the 21st  
13 century and we're being made aware publicly that it's  
14 still happening. So that leads me to say that I don't  
15 see that just because of the passage of time, maybe 20,  
16 30, 40 years, that it's eradicated. That's what  
17 I believe.

18 MS RATTRAY: Thank you, George. It just remains for me to  
19 say thank you very much for answering my questions. I'm  
20 not aware of any further questions.

21 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications to  
22 question this witness? No.

23 George, thank you very much. Can I add my thanks  
24 to those Ms Rattray has already given you, both for  
25 engaging with the inquiry, for providing your detailed

1 statement, and for coming along to tell us about your  
2 experience in Quarriers and your feelings about it.  
3 It's really helpful to me in the work we have to do  
4 here. Thank you for that and I'm now able to let you  
5 go.

6 A. Thank you.

7 (The witness withdrew)

8 LADY SMITH: Could I mention something that I mentioned last  
9 week on a number of occasions? The last witness has  
10 given the names of the house parents in the cottage he  
11 was in Quarriers. What I explained last week about the  
12 effect of my restriction order still applies and that  
13 means that although they've been mentioned here, they  
14 can't be mentioned outside the hearing room in any way  
15 at all. Thank you.

16 Ms Rattray.

17 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, we have no further evidence for this  
18 witness and another witness has been scheduled for  
19 around 2 o'clock.

20 LADY SMITH: Around 2 o'clock, thank you.

21 (12.50 pm)

22 (The lunch adjournment)

23 (2.00 pm)

24 LADY SMITH: Good afternoon. Now, Mr Peoples.

25 MR PEOPLES: My Lady, the next witness to give oral evidence

1 wishes to remain anonymous and has chosen the pseudonym  
2 "Fiona".

3 "FIONA" (affirmed)

4 LADY SMITH: Please sit down and make yourself comfortable.

5 In a moment that microphone will be switched on for you  
6 and you'll see when the red light comes on. Can you  
7 make sure you get into a position where you can be heard  
8 using the microphone? It's very important.

9 Mr Peoples will explain the red file to you.

10 Mr Peoples.

11 Questions from MR PEOPLES

12 MR PEOPLES: My Lady.

13 Good afternoon, Fiona.

14 A. Afternoon.

15 Q. Can I just begin by explaining, as her Ladyship said,  
16 that there is a red folder there which contains a hard  
17 copy of your statement which you provided to the inquiry  
18 prior to giving evidence today. I'll just maybe ask you  
19 to look at that for a moment. There is also a screen in  
20 front of you and you if we pull up either the statement  
21 or any other document, you can use the screen, but if  
22 you prefer to use the statement for any reason when  
23 we're looking at that, by all means do so. So feel free  
24 to choose.

25 So far as the folder is concerned, can I first of

1 all give for the benefit of the transcript the  
2 identification number for your statement, which is  
3 WIT.001.001.9152. You don't have to worry about that.

4 A. It's got 9171.

5 Q. I'll come to that. That's the last page.

6 A. Sorry.

7 LADY SMITH: Fiona, don't worry about the reference numbers.

8 We just need to record them for the purposes of the  
9 transcript. If Mr Peoples is taking you to your  
10 statement, I'm guessing he'll either use a paragraph  
11 number or a page number. The reference numbers are  
12 a bit long, I know.

13 MR PEOPLES: Don't worry at all. I'll tell you, or at least  
14 tell the transcript, what page we're on.

15 Can I ask you to turn to page 9171, which is the  
16 final page, I think, in the red folder in front of you.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Can you just confirm for me that you've signed your  
19 statement?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And that also you have no objection to your statement  
22 being published as part of the evidence to the inquiry  
23 and that you believe the facts stated in your witness  
24 statement are true.

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. Can I begin by asking you to confirm for me the year of  
2 your birth. I don't need the precise date, by the way,  
3 and can you simply confirm that you were born in the  
4 year 1957?

5 A. Yes, that's correct.

6 Q. If I can put up the first page of your statement on the  
7 screen for you. I'll just get a little bit of  
8 background from you before we go into your experiences  
9 of life in Quarriers, which you deal with in the  
10 statement that you've provided.

11 So far as background is concerned, I think you tell  
12 us in your statement at paragraph 2 that you have four  
13 brothers.

14 A. Yes, I did, yes.

15 Q. And you had an older brother who's now, I think,  
16 deceased?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. You had two younger brothers also; is that correct?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. There is not a huge span of age between you, is there?

21 A. No, we're all close together.

22 Q. And again, and we can come to more detail, I think you  
23 and your brothers were all put into the care of  
24 Quarriers at the same time; is that correct?

25 A. I believe so.

- 1 Q. So far as the background to going into care is  
2 concerned, if I could move over to page 9153, and to  
3 paragraph 6, where I think -- take your time.
- 4 A. Okay.
- 5 Q. Where I think you tell us that before going into care,  
6 you were living with your grandmother and her brother --
- 7 A. No, my grandmother and my uncle.
- 8 Q. I'm sorry. So your uncle was living with your  
9 grandmother?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. And you spent a lot of your early years living with  
12 them?
- 13 A. Yes, I did.
- 14 Q. Without going into the detail of this, because I don't  
15 think -- we've read the statement carefully. Basically,  
16 I think you didn't spend a lot of time with your mother  
17 prior to going into Quarriers. I think that's --
- 18 A. No, I don't -- I didn't spend much time with my mother.
- 19 Q. I think that so far as the circumstances which resulted  
20 in you and your brothers going into care are concerned,  
21 you tell us a little bit about it, starting at  
22 paragraph 9. I can maybe take this short. I think  
23 essentially, shortly before you were taken into care,  
24 you were staying for a weekend with your mother and  
25 during that weekend she decided to stay up in --

1 A. Yes, I believe I was with my mother because I was ill  
2 and my grandmother, I don't know ...

3 Q. You were with her, that's what you understand?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And she basically left and left all the children on  
6 their own?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And the upshot of that was that Social Services and  
9 other agencies were involved and that all the children  
10 were taken into care or to a place of safety until --

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. -- the position was to be determined what would happen?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. I think that you spent a short period of time -- and  
15 this is on page 9154 -- you tell us you spent a short  
16 time in a children's home in Polmont.

17 A. Yes, at Weedingshall.

18 Q. If I could ask you to have in front of you page 9155.  
19 It starts with a section headed "Quarrier's Village".  
20 I would just like to ask you about that for the moment.

21 In paragraph 19 on page 9155, you really set out  
22 your first impressions as a young child going into  
23 Quarriers. You tell us it looked fantastic.

24 A. Yes, it did. There were great big houses. I came from  
25 a little village and this place to me, it looked huge

- 1           and the houses were enormous.
- 2       LADY SMITH: Do you remember how old were you when you went  
3           there?
- 4       A. I always thought I was 7, but I have now been told that  
5           I was 9.
- 6       MR PEOPLES: I can maybe deal with that now to clarify that.  
7           I think you do say in your statement you thought you  
8           were around 7 years of age.
- 9       A. Yes.
- 10      Q. But I think you're aware that there are some records  
11         that you now, I think, have had a chance to perhaps have  
12         a look at.
- 13      A. Yes.
- 14      Q. Which indicate that you were admitted to Quarriers on  
15         about [REDACTED] 1967, when you were aged 9.
- 16      A. Yes.
- 17      Q. And that, according to their records, you stayed there  
18         until [REDACTED] 1968, when you were aged 11.
- 19      A. Yes.
- 20      Q. So it was roughly a period of about 20 months in all  
21         that you were there?
- 22      A. Yes.
- 23      Q. And that maybe was a little bit shorter than you thought  
24         it to be?
- 25      A. I thought it was four years in my -- but the conception

1           of time ...

2       Q.   You were a young child and I'm sure that it wasn't

3           uppermost in your mind what the precise time was.

4           I think that's what the records are telling us.

5       A.   Okay.

6       Q.   I'll maybe come to where you were staying in a moment,

7           but I think your first impressions, it sounds like they

8           were quite good ones.

9       A.   Yes.  It looked like a nice place it was all greenery,

10          nice houses.  It did look like a very nice place, yes.

11       Q.   You tell us on page 9155 that the first cottage or

12          house, I think it's a bit of a misnomer, a cottage.

13          It's a large Victorian houses?

14       A.   I think they were called cottages.  I believe they were

15          called cottages, yes.

16       Q.   You tell us that you were put in cottage 12 along with

17          your older brother.

18       A.   Yes.  On the records it says my other brothers were

19          there, but I don't remember them being in the same

20          cottage as my other brother and I.

21       Q.   You think they were in a different cottage?

22       A.   I believe so, but --

23       Q.   And one thing you tell us about cottage number 12

24          is that you tell us a little bit about the layout of the

25          property and you, in paragraph 22, and I won't ask you

1 for the detail about this just now, but you tell us that  
2 at the back of the property there was what you would  
3 call a cloakroom.

4 A. It was a place where we kept our shoes and coats and  
5 things when we came in from school. Our shoes and  
6 things. Today I think it would be called  
7 a conservatory, but then we called it the cloakroom.

8 Q. Okay. If we move on to 9156 of your written statement,  
9 you recall that when you first arrived you were  
10 introduced to the house parents and they were Mr and  
11 Mrs **QCY/QCZ**.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. So whatever date you arrived at Quarriers, the first  
14 house parents were a **QCY/QCZ** and I think that  
15 accords with such records as we've been provided with,  
16 that they were your first house parents.

17 I think generally speaking, you have not got too  
18 many -- well, you've not got any bad things really to  
19 say about **QCY/QCZ**

20 A. They gave discipline, which would be considered normal  
21 discipline. The only thing I hated, but now as an adult  
22 I can understand why they did it, was they chopped off  
23 my hair. As an adult I can understand lots of kids --  
24 it's normal.

25 Q. Did they explain why they were doing that, by the way?

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. What did you understand -- did you understand at the  
3 time what the reason was?
- 4 A. I thought they were just chopping off my hair to chop it  
5 off, but in hindsight now I can realise -- a lot of  
6 children all together ... problems.
- 7 Q. I think you tell us in paragraph 24 that --
- 8 A. Yes, I did have long hair, yes.
- 9 Q. -- you had long hair when you went into Quarriers and it  
10 was cut and you were upset at the time but you believe  
11 now it was for some health reason --
- 12 A. Yes, when you look back on it it would be for health  
13 reasons, as we all know. Head lice.
- 14 LADY SMITH: Not to beat about the bush, but head lice find  
15 it very easy to move between children the more hair they  
16 have.
- 17 A. Yes. And when there are lots of children.
- 18 MR PEOPLES: Do I take it that basically all the children  
19 had short hair --
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. -- so far as you can recall?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. Boys and girls?
- 24 A. Boys and girls. Boys had what we would call in those  
25 days a crew cut.

1 Q. So it was quite short?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And that was a sort of standard haircut for the boys in  
4 Quarriers?

5 A. Yes. In the cottage I was in anyway, yes. But I think  
6 the same in every one.

7 Q. Just staying with [REDACTED] QCY/QCZ for a moment, you  
8 say in paragraph 25:

9 "They weren't too bad, they didn't beat [you]."

10 We'll talk about some of the other house parents in  
11 a moment. I'll just maybe ask you to move on to  
12 paragraph 78 of your written statement, which is a bit  
13 further along at page 9165.

14 Here you pick up [REDACTED] QCY/QCZ again and I can  
15 maybe take this, read it for you:

16 "There was nothing brutal with [REDACTED] QCY/QCZ

17 Maybe you could just read the rest of that paragraph  
18 for me if you could.

19 A. "There was nothing brutal with [REDACTED] QCY/QCZ The  
20 punishments if you were naughty were they would give you  
21 the odd slap on the bottom or not allow you into the  
22 playroom or you would get put in a corner. There was  
23 nothing vicious, but I had never been smacked by my  
24 grandmother so it was hard for me. There were lots of  
25 punishments, but it wasn't just punishment, it was

1 abuse."

2 But I think when I refer to the punishment, abuse  
3 was later, not actually with them.

4 Q. I'll help you with that. I think the final part of that  
5 sentence on paragraph 78 reads:

6 "But with **QCX** it wasn't just punishment, it was  
7 abuse."

8 A. Sorry, I didn't see that.

9 Q. No, there's no reason why you should. That's the name  
10 behind --

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. -- what is blanked out there. We'll come back to who  
13 **QCX** is shortly.

14 So if we go back to page 9156 again, you tell us  
15 that your recollection is that, on paragraph 27 at the  
16 foot of the page, that **QCY/QCZ** retired, you thought,  
17 after about a year. I think it's slightly less than  
18 that.

19 A. It might be, but it felt like a year and they did  
20 retire, yes.

21 Q. Don't worry about the precise dates. They retired  
22 after, you thought, about a year but the person who came  
23 in afterwards, you say, was worse. His name was

24 **QCX**

25 A. We always called him -- we knew his name was **QCX** but

1 the kids would refer to him as [REDACTED] which -- we had to  
2 be careful because being caught calling him [REDACTED] was ...

3 Q. A punishable offence?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. We'll come to that maybe in more detail.

6 A. A big punishable offence.

7 Q. When you were talking amongst yourselves, was that the  
8 name you used, [REDACTED]

9 A. Yes, [REDACTED]

10 Q. But his name was [REDACTED]

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And you estimate he was maybe in his late 30s or early  
13 40s then, although it's always difficult.

14 A. It's difficult I think as a child. When you're a child,  
15 someone who's 40 is old and when you get older, someone  
16 who's 70 is not old.

17 Q. Quite.

18 LADY SMITH: Don't worry about it. You are just giving the  
19 impression it's somebody who was definitely quite  
20 grown-up as you saw it.

21 A. Yes.

22 MR PEOPLES: If you can recall, what did he want you to call  
23 him?

24 A. We were expected to call the house parents mum and dad.

25 Q. All the children were expected to do that?

- 1 A. Most, but when I first went in, I says no. So it was  
2 aunt and uncle and he was meant to be Uncle **QCX** and to  
3 be honest I can't remember his wife's name.
- 4 Q. I'll come to that in a moment. I might be able to help  
5 with you that one.
- 6 A. As I say, I can't remember her name.
- 7 Q. So when you went there first of all, or at least when  
8 **QCX** came in as house parent with his wife,  
9 he was wanting or they were wanting the children  
10 generally to call them mum and dad?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. But you didn't want to do that?
- 13 A. No. That happened also with **QCY/QCZ** but they  
14 were understanding when I says no, so I called them aunt  
15 and uncle. I never called them mum and dad.
- 16 Q. Just throughout the time you were with him and his wife  
17 as the house parents --
- 18 A. They would be aunt and uncle and that was it.
- 19 Q. And did they tolerate that even if --
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. -- they didn't like it or they wanted you to call  
22 them --
- 23 A. They accepted it. They just didn't accept being  
24 Uncle **QCX**
- 25 Q. Okay. Of course, you did have a mother and father.

1 A. I did have a mother and father.

2 Q. And you knew that?

3 A. Yes, I knew.

4 Q. And they knew that?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. If we move on to page 9157, as you've just told us, you

7 can't remember [REDACTED] QCX [REDACTED] wife's name. But if I was

8 to suggest it was [REDACTED] would that ring a bell?

9 I think Quarriers have indicated that [REDACTED]

10 and her husband became house parents at cottage 12.

11 A. I can't remember her name being [REDACTED] As I say, it

12 may well have been and I've just blocked it out.

13 I don't ...

14 Q. What we've been told by Quarriers is that

15 [REDACTED] became a house parent in cottage 12

16 from about [REDACTED] 1967, so that would be during the

17 period that you were in cottage 12.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And indeed, it coincides, I think, with you remembering

20 a change of house parents in cottage 12.

21 A. Yes. And I'm glad you brought this up because when

22 I went to Quarriers Homes they said I was confused, that

23 they couldn't confirm that [REDACTED] QCY/QCZ [REDACTED] were my

24 house parents, and I said they were because I remembered

25 them and I remembered the [REDACTED] children.

1 Q. I think there's no doubt they were there and the precise  
2 date on which they left might be up for debate, but  
3 I think if [REDACTED] came in on [REDACTED] 1967,  
4 and the [REDACTED] were her predecessors, then one assumes  
5 that they left during the time you were in cottage 12,  
6 which would coincide with your memory.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. One of the things I didn't take from you, I think, at  
9 the beginning, and it may be you can help me, if we go  
10 to paragraph 29, 9157, you're discussing there -- we'll  
11 just call him [REDACTED] because it is easier and because  
12 that's what you knew him as -- you say:

13 [REDACTED] took against [your brother] and [yourself]  
14 because he knew that your father had been one of his  
15 former prisoners."

16 Can you help us with the background to that?

17 A. Well, in my memory, I remember him making references to  
18 my brother, when he used to beat my brother, and my  
19 brother was a puny child and a bed-wetter. I always  
20 remember him mentioning, "You'll just be like your  
21 father, you'll be prisonbait just like your father", and  
22 that stuck in my memory. I did ask my grandmother and  
23 she never made me aware that my father was a prisoner.  
24 She always told me my father was away in the army.

25 LADY SMITH: That expression you've just used, prisonbait,

- 1           was it?
- 2           A. Yes, that's what he called us: we would be prisonbait
- 3           just like my father.
- 4           LADY SMITH: What do you think that he meant by that?
- 5           A. That we would come to nothing, that we would end up in
- 6           jail like my father. Then I don't think that's how
- 7           I interpreted it, but now, yes.
- 8           MR PEOPLES: We have a document in front of us and maybe it
- 9           will help you to -- I can understand why your
- 10          grandmother may have told you something about where your
- 11          father was when he was away from home, but if we go to
- 12          a document which we've been provided with.
- 13          QAR.001.001.2095. You'll see that this is a standard
- 14          application for admission to Quarriers at the time that
- 15          you were being placed in their care. You can see it has
- 16          some information about yourself.
- 17          A. Yes and about my father.
- 18          Q. And you see it's got the details of your father, which
- 19          is on the one of the columns on that page. It indicates
- 20          that his current address is HM Prison, [REDACTED]
- 21          A. Yes.
- 22          Q. I don't think it's probably necessary to look at that
- 23          document any further. It just gives the details --
- 24          A. They have his religion wrong. My father was, as far as
- 25          I was always aware, a Catholic.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. Maybe he wasn't. Maybe that's what I was led to  
3 believe, I don't know.

4 Q. The information being put forward is that he's  
5 Protestant, as is your mother. That's the information  
6 at least that's recorded in the application, whether  
7 that's correct or not.

8 If we leave that for the moment. That's a bit of  
9 a background and I think --

10 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples, is there a date on that document?

11 MR PEOPLES: Yes, there is. It's the application form  
12 which ...

13 LADY SMITH: I can see what it is, but what is it dated?

14 MR PEOPLES: The next page, 2096, shows that the date of the  
15 application is 29 December 1966. The application is  
16 being made, it would appear, by the children's officer  
17 for Stirling County Council. He's providing information  
18 to Quarriers in support of the application. Indeed, it  
19 gives some information on that page about your siblings.

20 That was the date of the application. I think if we  
21 go to another page, which is part of the standard form  
22 in these matters, if we go to 2097, just to get the  
23 format of these application forms, do we see that's  
24 a medical report? That really is a report that's  
25 prepared around the time of admission so that it's to

1 give some information about the child --

2 A. This is my medical report?

3 Q. Yes. It relates to you. It gives some information so  
4 far as known about various matters, including general  
5 health and vaccinations and so forth. Then if we go to  
6 page 2098, which is the final page of this, what I call  
7 admission documentation, on these admission forms when  
8 a child was discharged under the section on this page at  
9 2098, "For official use only", it shows the date of  
10 admission and we can see it's:

11 "Admitted from the children's officer of Stirling  
12 County Council."

13 And the date is [REDACTED] 67. It shows --

14 A. It just has "67" here --

15 Q. Don't worry, I'll tell you what's on it.

16 LADY SMITH: The precise date has been taken out, but that  
17 is the year.

18 MR PEOPLES: You were discharged to Stirling County  
19 Children's Officer on [REDACTED] 1968. The only  
20 information that's worth noting is it says you were  
21 posted to home number, and it was 12, and that's been  
22 crossed out and 31 has been added to the right-hand side  
23 of that number.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Which suggests that you were in two cottages at least,

- 1           12 and --
- 2           A. I knew I was in two cottages, yes.
- 3           Q. I think you do know that and we'll come to that. That
- 4           gives us a date of the application, date of admission,
- 5           date of discharge and information about the cottages you
- 6           were placed in, and I think it also tells us that in
- 7           this case your placement was a local authority placement
- 8           rather than a private arrangement, which was sometimes
- 9           the way that these things were done.
- 10          A. Okay.
- 11          Q. I don't know if you've seen any of this before or not.
- 12          A. I haven't seen these documents, no. I don't think
- 13          I have anyway.
- 14          Q. Don't worry. I think we've got the general picture from
- 15          these admission documents that we've just looked at.
- 16                 If I could go back to your statement, which I think
- 17          I was looking at. We were looking at page 9157.
- 18          A. Yes.
- 19          Q. We were looking at paragraph 29 and getting a bit of
- 20          background to the fact that your father was known to
- 21          **QCX** as one of his former prisoners, and I think because
- 22          **QCX** had formerly been a prison guard.
- 23          A. Yes. I know I'm going off text a bit here, but I did
- 24          bring this up when I went to Quarriers and they said
- 25          that I was mistaken, but then in the files they gave me,

1 on the very last page, it has that he was a prison  
2 officer and it was unfortunate that my father had  
3 recognised him and that's why we were moved. I always  
4 thought we were moved for other reasons.

5 Q. I'll show the document you have in mind. Initially you  
6 were given -- who mentioned about the fire? Was that  
7 something you'd been told?

8 A. I remember there being a fire and I remember being taken  
9 up and we were to go out the window. I remember there  
10 being a fire. Whether I'm getting confused whether it  
11 was cottage 12 or 31, but there was a fire when I was  
12 there. There definitely was, 100%.

13 Q. So you might have been temporarily moved from one  
14 cottage to another due to a fire even if it was only for  
15 a short time?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. You have some memory of that?

18 A. Yes, I remember the fire and I remember speaking to  
19 Diane from Quarriers and she said someone had gone back  
20 in the archives and there had been a fire, but she  
21 didn't say which cottage.

22 Q. Just pausing a bit, when you went to get some  
23 information, what was it you were being told that you've  
24 subsequently discovered didn't appear to bear to be in  
25 accordance with the records?

- 1 A. Well --
- 2 Q. Can you recall?
- 3 A. The time. As I say, the time maybe to me seemed like  
4 four years and it wasn't. But other things about, you  
5 know, they says that an ex-prison guard wouldn't be  
6 employed and that it wasn't done back then. On the very  
7 back page of later when they gave me the files it was  
8 there and actually Diane says I shouldn't have been  
9 given that, but I was and I kept it.
- 10 Q. And this Diane was?
- 11 A. She was the woman when I went to get my ...
- 12 LADY SMITH: She was at Quarriers?
- 13 A. Yes, she works at Quarriers now. She was the lady -- it  
14 was her and a gentleman called Jim who went to give me  
15 my -- I went to get my files.
- 16 MR PEOPLES: How long ago was this meeting roughly?
- 17 A. This was the beginning of this year, I think.
- 18 Q. So the information you were getting, at least on this  
19 occasion, was that Quarriers would not have employed  
20 a prison guard?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. But then it turned out there were records showing that  
23 they had?
- 24 A. And then I did get the records, yes.
- 25 Q. And it would appear that **QCX** had gone from being

- 1 a prison guard one moment to being a house parent in  
2 Quarriers the next. Is that how it seemed?
- 3 A. He was a prison guard. That's been clearly ...
- 4 Q. Just while I'm on this page, at paragraphs 30 and 31,  
5 you're there describing the relationship between the  
6 staff and the children. Can you just explain what you  
7 consider the relationship to have been?
- 8 A. I don't think the relationship between the staff and  
9 children was good. There were some staff that were  
10 okay, like the people who served your food and things  
11 like that, but on the whole, no. **QCX** was in charge of  
12 the house and whatever **QCX** said, that was what was  
13 done. I can't say all the staff were cruel, but the  
14 majority of them were.
- 15 Q. I think you also make a general point about the way they  
16 were. You say -- in paragraph 30 you tell us that:  
17 "I don't think a lot of them were there because they  
18 cared about children; I think they were there because it  
19 was a job."
- 20 A. Well, I --
- 21 Q. Was that the impression you had?
- 22 A. Yes, and I still think that. They were there, it was  
23 a job. I don't know if it paid well or not, but it was  
24 a job. They made us feel that we were children, that  
25 we were rejects -- I've put there "flawed children", but

- 1 the word that could be used was rejects.
- 2 Q. So that's how it came across to you at the time?
- 3 A. Yes, we were there -- although we knew it was not -- and  
4 as a child I still think to this day -- you know,  
5 I still have some thoughts of what did I do wrong to be  
6 put there, because that's how they made you feel. And  
7 in later years, you grow up and you learn, well, it  
8 wasn't your fault.
- 9 Q. In paragraph 31 you deal with the extent to which there  
10 was love and affection displayed towards children by  
11 staff. You tell us there was no love or affection so  
12 far as you can recall.
- 13 A. No, there were staff that were nice, but there was no  
14 love, there was no hugs, no well done, there was no --  
15 you know, I came from a house where I was hugged and  
16 told I was loved constantly. To go to -- in  
17 Weedingshall it was fine, but Quarriers, you know, it's  
18 hard to describe how you feel --
- 19 Q. Can I maybe get you to read out what you have said in  
20 your written statement in paragraph 31.
- 21 A. "There was no love or affection from any of the staff.  
22 It was just a job for them. You couldn't go to them and  
23 tell them if you were upset or anything; you were just  
24 told to stop being silly. We were treated as if we were  
25 all to blame for being there. It took me a long time to

1 realise it was not my fault. You were made to feel that  
2 you were insignificant."

3 Q. So do you think that captures reasonably well the way it  
4 was --

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. -- as far as you remember things?

7 A. Yes. When I say that there were staff that were okay,  
8 that doesn't mean that they were loving and kind and  
9 affectionate. They weren't cruel to you, but ...

10 Q. You tell us at paragraph 32 that there came a time when  
11 you were transferred from cottage 12 to a different  
12 cottage.

13 A. I always thought it was 41, but according to the files,  
14 it was 31.

15 Q. I'll maybe show you something just to help you on which  
16 cottage you went to. You have no doubt, there was  
17 a transfer?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. We can look at a document. In fact, we can look at it  
20 now, it might be as good a time as any. Can we have up  
21 on the screen QAR.001.003.9603.

22 That's a document that bears to be a report on  
23 child. It's a report relating to yourself?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. I don't know if this is a document you've seen before or

1 not.

2 A. I have seen this document and there were things in there  
3 that I disagreed with.

4 Q. I'll come back to that. It's more just for the dates  
5 for the moment. I'll come back to what you think about  
6 the entries in the record you've now seen.

7 On this page, about halfway down, and again the  
8 date's obscured, it says:

9 "Transferred from cottage 12 to 31."

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. I can tell you now that the date that's been obscured is  
12 [REDACTED] 1968, which would accord with what we've  
13 been told happened, that that was the date you were  
14 transferred from cottage 12 to a different cottage.

15 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples, are these notes all in relation to  
16 Fiona?

17 MR PEOPLES: Oh yes.

18 LADY SMITH: The first three entries, trying to do my best  
19 on my screen, look as though they're 1964.

20 A. That's where I think I got confused as well.

21 LADY SMITH: Had you seen this before, Fiona, and noticed  
22 that?

23 A. Yes. And I brought it up and they says it was an error.

24 LADY SMITH: Three times?

25 MR PEOPLES: Well, I'm not sure it's an error. I think it's

1 a rather curious way of writing 7. I think if you look  
2 at it and magnify it, it does tie in -- I agree, my Lady  
3 someone could ...

4 A. I was asked when I went to Quarriers by Diane if I had  
5 been there twice, and I said, "Not that I recall".

6 LADY SMITH: It sometimes happens with children's homes that  
7 children were in and out. If that is a 7 -- I'm not  
8 in the first flush of youth, Mr Peoples, but I have  
9 never seen 7 written like that before. But I realise  
10 I'm looking at a copy that's been scanned into an  
11 electronic system.

12 A. That would coincide that I was 7 years old when I went  
13 there.

14 LADY SMITH: Your date of birth, 1957. That have you first  
15 going in when you were 7?

16 A. Which is what I always thought the age I was.

17 LADY SMITH: And going back in 1967 and maybe just for  
18 a short period in 1964. It really doesn't matter  
19 terribly, Fiona, what I'm most --

20 A. It does seem like a big jump, 1964 to 1968.

21 LADY SMITH: What I am most interested in is your memories  
22 of the ways you were treated and what was positive and,  
23 if anything, what was a problem for you. So don't worry  
24 particularly about dates. That's curious, I agree with  
25 you.

1 MR PEOPLES: We've also looked at the previous admission  
2 documentations --

3 LADY SMITH: But maybe there were previous admission  
4 documents that we haven't got.

5 MR PEOPLES: We haven't got them and we can no doubt make  
6 some enquiries to see if this is in some way a gap,  
7 although on the face of it ... Well, it's possible,  
8 I suppose. The entries are not all written by the same  
9 handwriting, clearly.

10 LADY SMITH: We can see also from the content quite  
11 a contrasting type of behaviour being recorded as  
12 between the end of the third entry and the beginning of  
13 the fourth entry, with I --

14 A. This is what I've questioned because it doesn't coincide  
15 with my perception of me.

16 MR PEOPLES: Can I take that matter just now since it's  
17 obviously troubling you, understandably, and  
18 her Ladyship. If we take for the moment that you were  
19 admitted on [REDACTED] 1967, which coincides with the  
20 admission records, unless they're wrong of course --  
21 it would be odd if you were admitted on [REDACTED] 1964  
22 and 1967. That's why I ... the date can't be seen on  
23 the document --

24 LADY SMITH: I don't know. All I've got is the 19 --

25 MR PEOPLES: The first entry is [REDACTED] whatever year.

1 So it's clear that that much is clear.

2 Do we see there that, as has been observed, the  
3 first few entries are really quite good?

4 "Admitted to cottage [if we assume it's cottage 12].  
5 Settled quickly. No trouble at all."

6 That's the first entry on [REDACTED]

7 A. Mm-hm.

8 Q. Then there's another entry, which is 29 June 1967 --  
9 let's assume it's 1967 at the at the moment. It is the  
10 same writing:

11 "Showing signs of being quite bright and getting on  
12 well at school."

13 Then on 25 October -- and it's worth keeping those  
14 dates in mind:

15 "Very good, most helpful, and a loving child."

16 So that's all good news.

17 A. That coincides with my perception of myself as a child.

18 Q. If it be the case that your first house parents were  
19 [REDACTED] QCY/QCZ in this period, and if they were  
20 replaced by [REDACTED] QCX in November of 1967, all  
21 three entries will have been written by the [REDACTED] QCY/QCZ

22 A. Mm-hm.

23 Q. These three.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. But the next entry on 4 February 1968 was written before

1           you were transferred from cottage 12 and would have been  
2           written, one presumes, by the new house parents, Mr and  
3           Mrs **QCX/SPO** And that entry reads:

4                     "Loud voiced and interfering child. Quite bright at  
5           school and has to be the centre of attention."

6           Do you see that?

7           A. I see that and that's what I --

8           Q. And --

9           A. -- totally disagree with.

10          Q. Obviously, if I'm right in my analysis of this document  
11          and the dates, using the dates of the various  
12          house parents, the first entries are by **QCY/QCZ**

13          **QCY/QCZ** and you don't quarrel with them?

14          A. No. No.

15          Q. The fourth entry, it would appear, is an entry prepared  
16          by either **QCX/SPO** before you  
17          transferred to cottage 31.

18          A. Okay.

19          Q. Then the next entry is  1968, which is  
20          of course the date of your transfer, according to the  
21          records, and that clearly is written by the transferee,  
22          because it's saying you arrived for dinner and so forth.  
23          So it's written by the new house parent or parents that  
24          you can't recall the names of, I think.

25          A. I think it was later found out through documentation

1 that they were [REDACTED] QDE/QDF [REDACTED] -- I had the  
2 name [REDACTED] and I had the name [REDACTED] in my head for some  
3 reason but I don't know ...

4 Q. I think you're correct, I think the information would  
5 suggest that cottage 31, when you transferred, was run  
6 by a couple run know as [REDACTED] QDE/QDF [REDACTED] and that you  
7 spent roughly six, seven months in their care before you  
8 were discharged in 1968 on [REDACTED] Are you  
9 following?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. If we just stick on this document for the moment, there  
12 are a number of entries written after 14 February 1968,  
13 between then and -- if we go over to the following page,  
14 9604, the final entry is [REDACTED] I think you can  
15 take it that's, I think it -- it looks like it's 1968.  
16 It will coincide with other dates:

17 "Family discharged from cottage 31."

18 A. I always thought we left on 7 September, but obviously  
19 maybe 7 September was when we were told that we were  
20 getting home because [REDACTED] and  
21 7 September sticks in my mind and that may well be when  
22 we got told --

23 Q. You may well be right because if you look at  
24 7 September:

25 "Mother visits today."

1           And then there's a reference to causing some sort of  
2           scene, walking away with you and your three brothers.

3           So something seems to have happened on that day.

4       A. I can believe that my mother could be abusive. As my  
5           brother says, he got more scars from my mother than he  
6           did kisses, so I can relate to that.

7       Q. And what we see there, and I don't think we need to be  
8           a handwriting expert to work this out, is that the  
9           entries on that page and the entries on the previous  
10          page from 14 February 1968 are in the same hand --

11      A. Yes.

12      Q. -- but the entries above that are not.

13      A. Could I see them again?

14      Q. If we go back to page 9603. We can see if we scroll up,  
15          the writing at the top of that page is very different to  
16          the writing --

17      A. Yes, it is.

18      Q. -- below.

19      A. Yes, it is, it's more slanted to the -- yes.

20      Q. So it looks like there's three sets of handwriting here.  
21          They seem to coincide with three different periods: one  
22          with the **QCY/QCZ** one with the **QCX/SPO** and finally one  
23          with, we think, the **QDE/QDF**

24      A. Yes.

25      Q. This report may start on 18 January in the year 1967 or

1 possibly 1964, although I think it may well be more  
2 consistent with 1967 than 1964, looking at the other  
3 available material. But do we see this progression of  
4 entries?

5 A. Mm-hm.

6 Q. And also a progression of different descriptions of you?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. While I'm on the subject of dates and transfers, I'll  
9 maybe ask you to look at another document while we have  
10 them in front of us. QAR.001.003.9605. It won't be in  
11 your file, it will be on the screen.

12 What we have there is the first page of a two-page  
13 letter to the County Children's Officer in Stirling,  
14 dated [REDACTED] 1968, which is shortly before the  
15 apparent date of discharge on the records. It's written  
16 by the Deputy Director and Superintendent of  
17 Quarriers Homes, who at that time was a Mr Joe Mortimer.

18 Do you see that there is, I think, some degree of  
19 concern about the care that's -- the future care, but  
20 one thing that I want to perhaps just draw attention to  
21 is in the second full paragraph of that letter. It  
22 reads:

23 "You will remember from my letter dated 29 February,  
24 that we found it necessary to shift this family to  
25 another cottage, the reasons being father's contact with

1 the house father when Mr [and I can fill in this for  
2 you] **QCX** was employed as a prison officer prior to  
3 coming here. Since then the family have settled well  
4 with **QDE/QDF**

5 And it seems that, by this point in September 1968,  
6 your parents were visiting -- sorry, you were visiting  
7 your parents.

8 A. I don't remember my parents. I remember my mother  
9 coming to Quarriers, but my mother would take my  
10 brothers and leave me behind. That's what I remember of  
11 my mother. But as far as going home for a holiday, if  
12 I had gone home for a holiday, it wouldn't have been to  
13 my parents. I don't remember -- I remember going on  
14 holiday from Quarriers Homes but with Quarriers Homes  
15 children to a place called Girvan. I don't remember ...  
16 But it says it there, but ...

17 LADY SMITH: When you say if you'd gone home, it wouldn't  
18 have been to your parents --

19 A. I would have went to my grandma and my uncle because --

20 LADY SMITH: And I saw earlier in your statement there was  
21 reference to you being with your gran.

22 A. I spoke to my uncle last week after being here, I called  
23 him because I was quite upset. My uncle is quite old,  
24 he's 90 now. He's a Glaswegian, he lives in Glasgow,  
25 and he says, no, he says, your father was your

1 biological father, but he was never your dad, and your  
2 mother was your biological mother but she was never your  
3 mum. He says, you were my ma's child. We used to call  
4 you a little monkey because I went everywhere with her.

5 All my recollections before going into the home and  
6 after being in the home is with my Uncle [REDACTED] and my  
7 grandmother, and there was another aunt and uncle who  
8 lived in the house as well, Aunt [REDACTED] and Uncle [REDACTED]  
9 who lived with my grandmother and my other uncle.

10 MR PEOPLES: I'll show you another document just to complete  
11 the reference to the documents that I want to show to  
12 you. QAR.001.001.5793.

13 This isn't a particularly informative document other  
14 than for certain dates and other basic information. But  
15 it's what Quarriers would regard as a discharge card or  
16 record. We've seen the admission documentation, we  
17 looked at this morning, we've seen some of the other  
18 records that Quarriers kept about you.

19 This is the discharge card and it shows that you  
20 were admitted on [REDACTED] 1967, and again it's got two  
21 cottages, cottages 12 and 31, mentioned at the date of  
22 discharge.

23 It says you were discharged to the Stirling County  
24 Children's Officer on [REDACTED] 1968. So I suppose  
25 whatever the letter said from Mr Mortimer, you were

1           actually discharged to the care of the Stirling County  
2           Children's Officer, but your recollection then is that  
3           you went to live back with your grandmother --

4           A. Yes.

5           Q. -- when that happened?

6           A. Yes.

7           Q. Okay.

8           A. Maybe we were released to the officer to then be sent  
9           home, but I went home to grandma.

10          Q. If I go back to your statement, having looked at that  
11          documentation, to page 9157. We were looking at that  
12          page of your statement. We've established that there  
13          was a transfer from cottage 12 to 31, I think. So far  
14          as your statement at paragraph 33 goes on page 9157,  
15          I think this gets to the nub of the matter of your  
16          statement, because you say:

17                 "The person that sticks out most in my mind is **QCX**  
18                 because he was such a cruel person."

19          A. Yes. That's true. That's the one who sticks in my mind  
20          the most. We were treated badly in the other cottage,  
21          but the person who sticks most in my mind is **QCX**

22          Q. And I think we'll come in due course to look at some of  
23          the things that make him stick out in your mind as  
24          a cruel person. So that's really why you're explaining  
25          why his name comes out more prominently?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Just moving on in your statement to page 9158, you tell  
3 us a little bit about the food at Quarriers and the  
4 eating arrangements.

5 At paragraph 38, I see you tell us that the food was  
6 basic but okay. You also say that apart from not  
7 getting a dessert if you were naughty, sometimes they  
8 wouldn't feed you at all if you'd been bad?

9 A. Yes, you were sent to the room and you were left there.

10 Q. Can you help me with that. Obviously we know you've had  
11 the **QCY/QCZ** as house parents, the **QCX/SPO** and the  
12 **QDE/QDF** Do you relate this memory to one --

13 A. I wouldn't relate it to the **QCY/QCZ** the **QCY/QCZ** were  
14 fine. It could relate to **QCX** it could relate to the  
15 **QDE/QDF** because both houses weren't great. The person  
16 whose name I remember best is **QCX** because we know that  
17 was his -- his name was **QCX** and we called him **QCX** we  
18 got punished for it, and I remember him because of my  
19 brother's bed-wetting and everything.

20 Q. We'll come to some of that. You have quite clear  
21 memories of some of the things that happened when **QCX**  
22 was your house parent?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Just going on to the next page of your statement at  
25 9159, you're dealing there with the matter of leisure

1 time. You make the point at paragraph 42 that your  
2 recollection is there wasn't a lot of contact with kids  
3 in other cottages, only at school.

4 A. At school or church.

5 Q. Was that the position throughout your stay at  
6 Quarriers --

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. -- far as you can recall?

9 A. As far as I can recall.

10 Q. Then in paragraph 43, I think you try to tell us  
11 something about yourself as a child.

12 A. I wasn't a child that liked dealing -- I had lived in  
13 a house on my own with my grandmother. I wasn't a child  
14 that made friends easily. Being in Quarriers, I didn't  
15 want to make friends because I thought, well, I make  
16 friends, maybe tomorrow they won't be here, and I didn't  
17 become close.

18 I was more of a bookworm. I liked school -- maybe  
19 that's why I went on to teach at school, but I enjoyed  
20 school. But I was a kid that tended to be on my own.  
21 I had my brother and he was my best friend. He's been  
22 dead seven years and he's still my best friend.

23 Q. To what extent do you think that the house parents that  
24 cared for you understood that, what type of child you  
25 were?

1 A. Well, I think [REDACTED] QCY/QCZ probably did, but  
2 I don't think the other ones did. I mean, my  
3 punishments, if I was naughty -- it all depends what you  
4 consider naughty. I was the kind of child if you say,  
5 "You don't want to be doing this housework", I'd say,  
6 "No, I don't", because I didn't. But then if I told --  
7 "Okay, yes, I do", I'd still be punished because there  
8 was no right answer.

9 But I don't think the [REDACTED] QDE/QDF or [REDACTED] QCX would  
10 consider what kind of child I was. They all say that  
11 I was a bright child, which I thank them for, but, you  
12 know, the discrepancies, the way they describe me after  
13 a certain time, I can't see myself because I'm to this  
14 day -- my daughter calls me, she says I suffer from OCD.  
15 I'm a neat freak, I've never been untidy, I've never  
16 been messy and a loud mouth. Still now, my daughter  
17 tells me sometimes I need to grow a backbone and when  
18 someone does something, respond, and I just walk away.  
19 I can't see myself as the child that they've described.

20 Q. So the point you make is you don't recognise that child  
21 as you?

22 A. I don't recognise that child at all as myself. I've  
23 spoken -- I can't speak to my brother [REDACTED] he's not  
24 here any more. I spoke to my brother [REDACTED] who's much  
25 younger. Obviously, he doesn't really remember a lot

1 about, you know. He says, Fiona, you've always been the  
2 quiet one of us, you're the only one that never, ever  
3 got into trouble when we grew up, and things so ...

4 Q. You make the point in paragraph 43 that, against the  
5 background of the circumstances in which you went into  
6 care, you say your world had been turned upside down and  
7 everything was alien to you and this new environment and  
8 you didn't ever totally adjust to this situation.

9 A. No, I wanted to be left alone and just think about me.  
10 I had my brother, that was fine. But I lived in a house  
11 with, as I say, an uncle, a grandmother, another uncle  
12 and aunt, and I was the centre of attention. I had no  
13 reason to be naughty or be bad or anything.

14 Q. How much preparation do you think you got for moving  
15 from that world to the sort of alien world of Quarriers?

16 A. You didn't get any preparation.

17 Q. You just went there?

18 A. I remember being in school. The time when my mother  
19 walked out on us, I must have been left with my  
20 grandmother and my brothers must have been left with  
21 another member of the family before we were eventually  
22 placed in care because I remember being called from  
23 school and walking home. In my head I saw my uncle  
24 at the door, which was very strange because he should  
25 have been at work. I thought my grandmother had died

1 and I remember that.

2 But there were people there to take us to -- and  
3 it would be Weedingshall they would have taken us to  
4 initially, and I always remember I had a koala bear. My  
5 grandmother brought it out and said, [REDACTED] can't sleep  
6 without her bear", because that's what she called me,  
7 [REDACTED] That sticks in my memory. So there was no real  
8 preparation. There was no discussion beforehand, you  
9 know, you're going to be taken to a home. This is going  
10 to happen. No.

11 Q. And when you went to, initially for a short period, to  
12 Weedingshall in Falkirk, Polmont, and then went on to  
13 Quarriers, was there any preparation for that move?

14 A. No. We got told a few days before that we would be  
15 leaving and that was it. To this day, I find it  
16 incomprehensible why they would move us when, you know,  
17 my family was from Falkirk. Why did they move us to far  
18 away to a place like Bridge of Weir?

19 Q. Was that explained to you?

20 A. No, and it wasn't because Weedingshall was closing down  
21 or anything because -- it no longer exists but it did  
22 exist until about 10 years ago.

23 Q. If I could move on to a different matter, you deal with  
24 the matter of schooling in your written statement at  
25 page 9160. You tell us that you initially attended the

- 1 local William Quarriers school.
- 2 A. Yes, then they sent me to Linwood.
- 3 Q. Was that Linwood High School?
- 4 A. No, it would be -- Linwood was a primary school. They
- 5 sent me out to a school outside the Quarriers Homes
- 6 school.
- 7 Q. Was that a usual thing to happen to children in the
- 8 cottage?
- 9 A. There was another boy, [REDACTED] -- I always remember
- 10 [REDACTED] because we used to compete who would get the best
- 11 marks in certain things. He was a bit like me. He
- 12 liked school. Because going to school for me was my
- 13 escapism. I was happiest when I was in school.
- 14 Q. What were you escaping from?
- 15 A. Well, you were escaping from the cottage. You weren't
- 16 in the cottage, you weren't subject to being shouted at,
- 17 being told you were useless, being told you were all
- 18 sorts of things. In school it was sort of like
- 19 stability, that's the only way I can express it now.
- 20 I don't think I'd have been able to express it like that
- 21 at the age I was, but now, yes. It was stability and
- 22 I enjoyed school.
- 23 Q. Indeed, you tell us that, that you did well at
- 24 paragraph 49 and you were happy there.
- 25 A. Yes, I was happy in school. I'm still a bookworm to

1           this day. I love to read because I liked reading when  
2           I was there.

3           Q. On the matter of what are described as chores, you tell  
4           us a little bit about that on page 9161 at paragraph 57.  
5           I think the position was that you recall doing various  
6           chores after school.

7           A. In the morning, we had our chores to do, but that was  
8           basically making -- normal things that any child would  
9           do, make beds and things like that. After school, yes,  
10          you did your homework, you were fed, and then you had  
11          chores to do, like help tidy up the kitchen, help clear  
12          the tables.

13                 A punishment chore was like to clean the big brass  
14          knockers on the doors. That was a punishment. I seen  
15          it as a punishment chore.

16          Q. So there were routine chores that you did --

17          A. There were routine chores for everybody --

18          Q. -- and then punishment chores which --

19          A. Yes, which -- cleaning the knocker. Nobody liked doing  
20          that job and that was a punishment chore.

21          Q. Did that type of punishment occur in any particular  
22          cottage or with any particular house parent?

23          A. That happened in the second cottage; they had a big  
24          brass knocker.

25          Q. At the QDE/QDF cottage?

1 A. Yes. Then you had the linen and things, which I liked  
2 doing, folding up linen and putting it away.

3 Q. Just on the matter of visits from family, you deal with  
4 that matter in your statement at page 9162, about visits  
5 from family members. We can maybe put that on the  
6 screen. One particular point that you raise is some  
7 unhappiness about the situation with your grandmother  
8 visiting on occasions when you didn't always see her  
9 when she came. Can you tell us a little bit about that?

10 A. If I committed what they considered a transgression,  
11 which would probably be -- I don't know, anything was  
12 a transgression, it's very difficult to define them  
13 right now.

14 But I remember one particular time, I was hanging  
15 clothes to dry. And **QCX** says, "You don't really want  
16 to be doing that", "No, I don't", so that was  
17 punishable. And next day was grandma's visit.

18 I thought now they should have called my grandmother and  
19 told her not to come, but my grandmother arrived and she  
20 was told she wasn't allowed to visit and I could see her  
21 from the window. I don't have to look at the screen to  
22 remember this. I was screaming because I wanted my  
23 grandmother. I was punished for that afterwards because  
24 I shouldn't have been screaming.

25 Q. I think you tell us that your grandmother had made what

1 for her would have been a long journey from Falkirk by  
2 bus, train and then another bus --

3 A. Not just from Falkirkshire. We lived in a small village  
4 called [REDACTED] which is quiet distant and she would  
5 have had to go from [REDACTED] to Falkirk and then from  
6 Falkirk to Glasgow, then Glasgow to Bridge of Weir.  
7 I don't think I considered my grandmother always to be  
8 old, but looking back on it, she would probably be the  
9 age I am now.

10 Q. It would be a significant journey for her to make?

11 A. It was.

12 Q. And there was time, as I understand it, from what you  
13 said on this occasion, for Quarriers to notify her?

14 A. Yes, because my grandmother's house -- not everybody had  
15 a telephone in those days, but my grandmother's house  
16 did.

17 Q. So she could have been called?

18 A. Yes.

19 MR PEOPLES: My Lady, I'm conscious of the time.

20 LADY SMITH: That probably is a good time to have the  
21 mid-afternoon break.

22 Fiona, we always take a short break in the middle of  
23 the afternoon. Would that suit you to do it now?

24 A. Yes, that's great.

25 (3.05 pm)

1 (A short break)

2 (3.15 pm)

3 LADY SMITH: Just get yourself comfortable, Fiona, there's  
4 no rush. And if you could keep yourself again in a good  
5 position for the microphone.

6 MR PEOPLES: Can I go back to your statement at  
7 WIT.001.001.9163.

8 At paragraph 68, you have told us already that you  
9 and your brothers were in Quarriers at the same time but  
10 you tell us that you didn't seem to see a lot of your  
11 younger brothers; is that what you remember?

12 A. That's what I remember. My younger brother who --  
13 because my youngest brother unfortunately went missing  
14 in 1976 and has never been found, but my other brother,  
15 [REDACTED] remembers that he was with [REDACTED] and that he saw  
16 very little of us.

17 Q. So it accords with your memory?

18 A. We could have maybe been in the same cottage, but  
19 I don't think we were because I don't think he --

20 Q. Certainly your memory is you didn't have much of  
21 a relationship, as you put it?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Whereas in the case of your older brother, you were --

24 A. We were very close.

25 Q. You had a good close relationship?

1 A. We did. Even until the day he died, we were very close.

2 Q. Can I move to a different matter. On page 9164 you tell  
3 us a little bit about bed-wetting and tell us that it  
4 wasn't a problem for you, but your older brother, it was  
5 a problem for?

6 A. My older brother, [REDACTED] bed-wetted until he was an  
7 adult. He was a married man and he still wet the bed.  
8 That was a punishable -- I think for bed-wetting was one  
9 of the worst punishments we were given.

10 Q. Just tell us what happened --

11 A. I didn't wet the bed, but my brother, although I was  
12 younger, I probably looked older because my brother was  
13 small and puny. He was not a big child. I used to try  
14 and cover up, you know, because if you were on the rota  
15 that you were doing the linen, you tried to cover up for  
16 him.

17 If you were caught, you were punished. You were put  
18 in a bath -- and it had like a wooden top with little  
19 holes in each end and you were put in there and the  
20 water was ice cold. I think they tended to leave you  
21 there maybe for half an hour or something. To us it  
22 felt that we were there forever.

23 I don't see how that would prevent someone from  
24 bed-wetting. I think that would have made it worse.  
25 That was the punishment for bed-wetting.

1 Q. So just to be clear --

2 A. And you were humiliated as well. You were, you know,  
3 brought out in front of all the other kids. I used to  
4 feel sorry for my brother, although he was the older  
5 one.

6 Q. So the other children would know if a child had wet the  
7 bed?

8 A. Yes. There were other bed-wetters as well and the  
9 punishment was the same for them. You were brought down  
10 in your -- if it was my brother, it would be in pyjamas,  
11 they would be wet, and you were lined up in front of  
12 everybody else and you were scolded and screamed at, you  
13 were dirty, you were this. The exact words I don't  
14 remember, but you weren't clean, you were dirty, and you  
15 should be able to get up at night and go to the toilet.

16 You were humiliated. I think that was maybe even  
17 worse than being put in the cold bath, the humiliation  
18 that you suffered, because then other kids can be cruel  
19 as well, kids will laugh at you and kids will make fun  
20 of you, and if they think that it'll avoid a punishment  
21 to them, then they will, you know, make fun of you.

22 That's not just in Quarriers, that's in everyday life,  
23 as it is now.

24 Q. Just so I've got the sequence of events, if someone had  
25 been found to wet their bed and were getting these

1           punishments, do you say the first part would be this  
2           parading in front of --

3       A. Humiliation.

4       Q. The humiliation and then taken to a place --

5       A. There used to be a big room. The baths, to my  
6           recollection, were metal. That's my recollection of  
7           them. As I say, there was like a wood, like -- it was  
8           cut here and a bit (indicating), so two people could be  
9           put in. And I was put in many times with my brother  
10          because I tried to protect him, tried to cover up, you  
11          know, strip his bed or something.

12       Q. So you got the same treatment? It wasn't because you  
13          had wet the bed --

14       A. No.

15       Q. -- it's because you tried to protect him and you were  
16          discovered?

17       A. Because I tried to protect him and prevent him being  
18          caught.

19       LADY SMITH: Tell me a bit more about this lid. You say it  
20          was wooden.

21       A. It was a wooden lid. It was like a big plank of wood  
22          and it had a big cut here (indicating) for your head and  
23          you couldn't push it up if it was there and you were  
24          left there.

25       LADY SMITH: How were you put into the bath? Was the lid

1 taken off to put you in?

2 A. Yes. We were put in one at one end and one at the other  
3 and then we were putting our heads -- the only thing  
4 exposed was our heads.

5 LADY SMITH: So the lid was put on after you were in the  
6 water?

7 A. Yes, that would be -- I remember **QCX** sometimes being  
8 there, but then I remember other people, I don't  
9 remember their names, staff. I don't know if we were  
10 even told the staff names, they were men and women and  
11 they did it, and maybe they didn't want to do it, but  
12 it's part of the job, and as I said, **QCX** was the boss  
13 and they did basically ...

14 LADY SMITH: What was it about this lid that meant you  
15 couldn't get it off? Do you know?

16 A. The way it was placed, I don't know -- the way it must  
17 have been placed, we couldn't move it. You had to wait  
18 until someone came and prised it from each end and then  
19 we were taken out.

20 MR PEOPLES: The persons that put you in these baths and put  
21 this cover over, as you've described, this wooden cover,  
22 just so I'm clear, would that have been **QCX**

23 A. **QCX** did it, but mostly **QCX** would give the order for it  
24 to be done and it would be carried out by another member  
25 of staff because there was -- you had house parents, but

- 1           there were other members of staff there.
- 2       Q.   These baths you describe, they were cold, icy water?
- 3       A.   Yes, they were cold, icy water.
- 4       Q.   Those put into the bath in this way would be left there
- 5           for sometimes long periods?
- 6       A.   Long periods, yes.  Sometimes if they were busy and
- 7           maybe I think they forgot about you, maybe they didn't
- 8           mean to leave you there that long, but it felt maybe
- 9           we were there an hour or half an hour, but to us it felt
- 10          like we were there forever.
- 11      Q.   For a long time?
- 12      A.   Yes.
- 13      Q.   Would this happen at all times of year?
- 14      A.   Yes.  If you wet the bed and then to my brother it
- 15          happened -- it didn't happen to me on a daily basis, but
- 16          for my brother it happened on a daily basis.  It
- 17          happened to me on the occasions that -- you know,
- 18          I wasn't always dealing with the linen.  We took care of
- 19          -- we had a rota, you had your jobs to do, and it was me
- 20          doing the linen then I would strip his bed and get it
- 21          into the laundry and try and get clean linen so he
- 22          wouldn't be found out.
- 23      Q.   Can you recall where this bath was?  Was it upstairs,
- 24          downstairs?
- 25      A.   It was on the main floor, which would be downstairs.

1           The bedrooms were upstairs and there was bathrooms  
2           upstairs. But this -- I won't say it was a basement,  
3           I can't remember if it was, but it was definitely  
4           underneath.

5           Q. You talked earlier on of -- I'm trying to get my  
6           bearings. There was a cloakroom but it wasn't there?

7           A. It wasn't in the cloakroom, no. The only thing that was  
8           in the cloakroom was your shoes, your boots. The  
9           cloakroom was where you were taken in the morning once  
10          you were all dressed to go to school and where you were  
11          given your cod liver oil. I still get goosebumps  
12          thinking of it.

13          LADY SMITH: It's actually very good for you.

14          A. I take it now, but in supplements. When you're that age  
15          and it's in liquid form, no. I have suffered from  
16          severe rheumatoid arthritis, so I do take supplements of  
17          cod liver oil, but in capsule form.

18          MR PEOPLES: If I could ask you about something else. At  
19          paragraph 75 on page 9164, you tell us that you ran away  
20          a couple of times, you think when you were around about  
21          9 years of age, after being punished yet again.

22                 Now, was that the reason you ran away, that you were  
23          being punished continually for things, or was there any  
24          other reason?

25          A. I think there was, in hindsight, more than one reason,

1 but most of the reason was you didn't want to be there  
2 because the people were cruel to you, you were very  
3 unhappy. I think about it now and I wonder how  
4 I managed to get from Bridge of Weir to [REDACTED]

5 LADY SMITH: How did you?

6 A. I know how I got there, but how I had the presence of  
7 mind to do it ... There was a bus, because there was  
8 a swimming pool in Quarriers, and you went to swimming,  
9 but there was a bus, and sometimes you were allowed to  
10 go out with your pocket money and spend it, but I went  
11 and I got on the bus, and I took it to -- actually into  
12 Bridge of Weir from Quarriers Homes and then you got  
13 another bus, and I went to the railway station and  
14 I remember being on the train and there was a -- I saw  
15 police officers, they probably weren't even looking for  
16 me. And I remember a family being there, all sitting  
17 eating sandwiches, and I sort of just made myself a part  
18 of that family. I think they shared their sandwiches  
19 with me. They obviously thought, well, maybe the  
20 mother's not here. They didn't ask questions, or maybe  
21 they did and I don't recall.

22 Then I knew I had to get off the train at Falkirk  
23 and I knew how to get from Falkirk to [REDACTED] I knew  
24 I had to get the [REDACTED] bus -- and even to this day  
25 it's still the [REDACTED] bus that goes from Falkirk to

1 [REDACTED] every hour -- and I got on that bus and then  
2 I got off and I walked to my grandmother's house.

3 Q. I think you tell us a little bit about that journey on  
4 page 9165. You've just told us, I think, how you got  
5 from Bridge of Weir to [REDACTED] in paragraph 76. The  
6 upshot was you were taken back to Quarriers and you tell  
7 us, I think you were punished. Can you remember what  
8 sort of punishment you were given?

9 A. I was beaten with the buckle of a belt. I still have  
10 the marks on my legs to prove that and I was left in the  
11 cloakroom overnight.

12 Q. Who did the beating with the buckle of a belt?

13 A. In my mind it was [REDACTED] QCX

14 Q. On the occasions that you ran away, did anyone ever ask  
15 you why you were running away?

16 A. Oh yes. I mean, I remember -- well, Mr Borthwick came  
17 later, but I remember Mr Forsyth, his name sticks in my  
18 mind, Forsyth. I told him why I was running away and  
19 everything but then he -- but I only saw him once. We  
20 did -- I told my grandmother, I told my uncle, and then  
21 we had another -- and her name was Mrs Wilson, she was  
22 the social worker at that point. And the reason I  
23 remember her so well is because I often wondered how she  
24 could drive with an artificial hand. She had -- it was  
25 like a plastic hand.

- 1           I don't know whether they investigated or not.
- 2           I know there's reference to something being
- 3           investigated, but they say it was my mother and father
- 4           that was feeding -- that's not true.
- 5       Q.   So you did tell a number of adults what was going on in
- 6           Quarriers?
- 7       A.   Yes.
- 8       Q.   But did anything change?
- 9       A.   No.
- 10      Q.   Indeed, I think you've just told us that running away
- 11           was a punishable offence.
- 12      A.   Yes, it was, and also when I got back, I was punished.
- 13           I understand why they said I stole the money, but
- 14           I think how can I steal money that is actually mine?
- 15           Because they used to have a cupboard and I knew where
- 16           the keys were kept and you had a little tin with your
- 17           name on it, and when you got money, pocket money or
- 18           money from your grandmother or whatever, it all went
- 19           into this little tin. And when I look back on it now,
- 20           if I was a thief, I'd have taken all the money from
- 21           every tin. I only took the money from my tin. But
- 22           I was punished for being -- I was labelled a thief after
- 23           that.
- 24      Q.   Do you think on that occasion you were punished for
- 25           taking the money or punished for running away?

1 A. I think for both.

2 Q. Both, okay.

3 A. And I was labelled a thief, which I wasn't, because

4 I think if I had been a thief, I would have taken all

5 the money.

6 Q. If I could move on and to some extent you're maybe going

7 to tell me some things you've already told me. There's

8 a section where you deal with treatment that you and

9 others received when you were in Quarriers that you

10 consider to be abuse. I'm going to ask you about some

11 of the things you've told us about now. If I could ask

12 you to turn to page 9165, starting at paragraph 79.

13 There you describe certain treatment that was meted

14 out by **QCX** Just tell us a little bit about that, the

15 sort of -- which I think you differentiate between

16 discipline and abuse.

17 A. Well, discipline is like if you get sent to the corner

18 to stand in the corner or if you get a smack on the

19 bottom. That to me can be considered discipline. But

20 when you're dragged by the hair up a stair or you're

21 banged against -- because they had a very big stair and

22 it had a very -- the wooden staircase and you're dragged

23 up there by the hair on your head and you're slapped

24 about the ears and stuff like that. That's not

25 discipline, that -- they would tell you it was

- 1 discipline, but you now know that's not discipline.
- 2 Q. You seem to be -- your memory seems to be that this type  
3 of treatment was largely carried out by [QCX] was that  
4 your memory then?
- 5 A. Well, the thing is, I don't know if over the years,  
6 because I remember [QCX] so well, if maybe I've morphed  
7 [QDE] into [QCX] or someone else into [QCX] I will  
8 say that could be happening, I'm not sure, but the  
9 person that sticks in my mind about all the punishments  
10 most is [QCX] [QCX] was particularly abusive to my  
11 brother, but I can't speak on his behalf, he's not here.  
12 But the one that I remember most is [QCX]
- 13 Q. You've got a memory of him doing these things to you?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. You say that being put in the corner -- there were  
16 occasions when the bottom half of your clothing would be  
17 taken off and you'd be hit with the buckle of a belt by  
18 [QCX] Is that something you remember happening?
- 19 A. My legs, I do still have markings on my legs from when  
20 those things happened.
- 21 Q. On the occasions when you were dragged up the stairs by  
22 the hair, which you tell us about, what prompted [QCX] to  
23 do this? What sort of thing would trigger this?
- 24 A. I was a picky eater as a child. I'm not now, as you can  
25 tell. Things like I wouldn't eat, I wouldn't eat --

1 even the thought of Shredded Wheat, but that's another  
2 thing, I can't stand the thought of it. If liver was  
3 served, I refused to eat it. I would eat the potatoes  
4 or whatever, but I wouldn't eat. And you were served  
5 it -- like the same as the Shredded Wheat. You were  
6 served it over and over and again. And in the end you  
7 didn't eat it and so you were dragged upstairs and you  
8 were told not to move. You weren't even allowed to --  
9 you were only allowed to go to the toilet and you were  
10 to stay there.

11 I didn't mind being put in the room. I liked it.  
12 I was lucky, I had the bed next to -- there was a big  
13 bay window and I had the bed there. So I didn't mind  
14 being put in the room, because then I could read my  
15 books and go away into my world.

16 Q. But what you did mind was how you got there?

17 A. Oh yes, definitely! But I didn't mind being up in the  
18 room on my own and not being allowed to watch TV and  
19 things.

20 Q. Just in terms of the food, you're describing situations  
21 which may have caused this kind of behaviour on **QCX**  
22 part.

23 A. If you answered back, you know, if you were asked  
24 a question and you didn't answer the way he expected you  
25 to answer. I mean, I was always taught by my

1 grandmother, you tell the truth. You were asked  
2 a question, you answered it truthfully, then you'd get  
3 into trouble for it. So you wondered, why are you  
4 asking me a question, I'm answering it truthfully, you  
5 know, and I still get into trouble. So it was pretty  
6 confusing for me to understand why -- it's like with the  
7 breakfast cereal. As I say, Shredded Wheat, I can't  
8 even look at it, and I remember, you know, "You don't  
9 like that?" and I says, "No, I don't like it, I don't  
10 want to eat it". That was a punishable offence. If you  
11 don't like it, why should -- I can't say yes, I do like  
12 it, because if I liked it, I would be eating it.

13 Q. Can you remember, the Shredded Wheat situation, was that  
14 something that you encountered in one cottage rather  
15 than the other?

16 A. No, I encountered that in both cottages. You were  
17 served food, you were expected to eat whatever was  
18 served to you. I'm not saying the food was bad, but  
19 there were things that I particularly didn't like.  
20 I don't like custard, but you know, custard was  
21 a typical -- I didn't like the semolina, but I didn't  
22 like the custard, but that was a typical dessert.

23 Q. You have a memory in relation to the Shredded Wheat of  
24 one occasion when you were taken from the dining room,  
25 you think by an assistant, and put into the kitchen and

1           you say it was served up to you for the next three days  
2           and you were given no alternative?

3       A. That's right. And I actually was sick in the plate and  
4           I was still told I had to eat it. I ended up taking the  
5           plate and smashing it.

6       Q. Okay.

7       A. I think there's a reference to me breaking crockery on  
8           a daily basis. No, I remember breaking that crockery  
9           because in my mind, if I break it, the plate, they're  
10          not going to serve me the food again.

11      Q. You tell us that this wasn't something that just  
12          happened to you in terms of feeding.

13      A. No, there was other people it happened to.

14      Q. What did you see, what happened with these other people?

15      A. The same kind of thing. You were taken to the kitchen,  
16          there was a big table there and you were left there and  
17          there was someone there supervising and you were meant  
18          to eat. Some children managed to eat it, but things  
19          like liver and Shredded Wheat, I could never --  
20          Shredded Wheat, I could never finish it. It was  
21          impossible for me to swallow it.

22      Q. So the situation you're describing is if someone didn't  
23          like something, you recall them being taken through to  
24          the kitchen and getting the same sort of treatment as  
25          you did?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. That they would be -- it would be put in front of them,  
3 they'd be expected to eat it, and if they didn't,  
4 it would be put in front of them again? Is that what  
5 happened?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. On page 9166, at paragraph 83, if I could put that on  
8 the screen, you're saying that really you were getting  
9 slapped, I think is the term you use, on an almost daily  
10 basis for various apparent misdemeanours. Can you give  
11 us some examples of the sort of things that would cause  
12 you to get a slap?
- 13 A. Like running up the stairs, running down the stairs, not  
14 sitting up properly, slouching, elbows on table,  
15 speaking while you were eating. Those were punishable  
16 offences.
- 17 Q. When you say you got a slap, can you describe what form  
18 that took and where?
- 19 A. It wasn't always a slap. Sometimes you got a punch  
20 around the ears.
- 21 Q. So you could be struck on the head?
- 22 A. Your head, around the ears. Mostly, the slapping was  
23 around the ears and on the legs.
- 24 Q. And how was the slap administered?
- 25 A. By the back -- it was a backhanded slap.

- 1 Q. A backhander?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. And it would tend to strike somewhere near your ear?
- 4 A. Your ear, yes.
- 5 Q. Who would be slapping in that way that you recall? Who
- 6 did that, for example?
- 7 A. Any member of staff would do that. It wasn't just **QCX**
- 8 or the **QDE/QDF** any member of staff would do that. If
- 9 they were in the dining hall, you had like a table for
- 10 girls, table for staff, table for boys. If there was --
- 11 one person went round making sure that you were eating
- 12 and that and if they felt that you weren't sitting
- 13 properly, that you were talking or whatever, they would
- 14 give you a slap. I'm not saying everybody was cruel
- 15 but, yes, most of them were. They should not have been
- 16 in charge of children.
- 17 Q. How forceful were these slaps?
- 18 A. To me, as a child, very forceful. Very forceful.
- 19 Q. Did they leave any marks?
- 20 A. Well, the marks -- I have marks on my legs. I do have
- 21 problems with hearing in my left ear. I'm not saying
- 22 that that was caused by slaps, but I do have a problem
- 23 with hearing in my left ear. I do have some marks on my
- 24 arms that were left.
- 25 Q. But you say **QCX** was the worst. Why do you say that?

1 A. Well, I think that -- I have in my mind QCX being the  
2 worst simply because of the things he used to say and  
3 the things he used to do. And I do think that QCX took  
4 exception to my brother and I because of who we were.  
5 I wasn't aware of that at that time.

6 Q. No.

7 A. But he must have been aware who we were because he would  
8 have our names and he would have the admission forms, so  
9 he would know exactly who my father was.

10 Q. Indeed, you deal with this matter in paragraph 84 of  
11 your statement on page 9166. You describe this as  
12 a form of mental abuse and that you'd be getting called  
13 names, particularly after QCX came on the scene. You  
14 tell us:

15 "He would say we would just end up like our father."

16 Was that the sort of expression he would say?

17 A. Yes. You know, the particular expression I remember him  
18 saying to my brother was he'd be jailbait just like my  
19 father. So for Quarriers to say he didn't know who  
20 we were, he was very much -- we were Mr [REDACTED] -  
21 one of his ex-prisoners that he was in charge of while  
22 he was a prison guard, because it was there in black and  
23 white. And I think he took -- I mean, he was cruel to  
24 all the children, but mostly so to us. We just had to  
25 look at him the wrong way or be seen to not pay

1 attention, you know, and we were punished more severely.

2 Q. Apart from saying something along the lines that you  
3 would end up just like your father, did he say anything  
4 else or call you other names?

5 A. We were stupid, we were idiots, we were useless human  
6 beings.

7 Q. How often would he be saying these things to you?

8 A. To me, it was on a daily basis, but that is my  
9 recollection. It could have been every couple of days,  
10 but to me it was daily. To me -- I remember most days.  
11 I used to want to come home and go from school and get  
12 fed whatever I got fed and go to the room rather than --  
13 there was a big room that you could go in. When **QCY**  
14 **QCZ** were there, we were allowed to go in the room  
15 with the TV and that was when **QCX** came along -- that  
16 room, he took that over for his family, but there was  
17 a big playroom that we could go into and play. If there  
18 was any noise or anything -- and he did have children.  
19 If there was any argument with his own children with  
20 children in the hall, then we were punished even if his  
21 children were the ones to instigate it.

22 LADY SMITH: Can I just go back to the five-page record  
23 we were looking at earlier? That's QAR.001.003.9602.  
24 Mr Peoples, I'm guessing you'll be able to give me  
25 a date of an entry on the front page that I haven't got

1 in front of me. it's the penultimate date in the list of  
2 treatments received. What date is that? Something  
3 stroke 68.

4 MR PEOPLES: It's [REDACTED] 1968 -- it looks like it could be a  
5 [REDACTED] but it's definitely [REDACTED].

6 LADY SMITH: It says, "Punch on right eye. Not serious".

7 Tell me about that.

8 A. That was -- I answered back. You know, I was asked  
9 something and I answered back. I still have the scar  
10 here on my eye. You can see -- not from that distance,  
11 but I do have a scar. I don't particularly mean that  
12 they were aiming for my eyes, it was my ears, but I got  
13 it on the eye. Also that is when you got pulled up the  
14 stairs. At the bottom of the staircase there's a big --  
15 I don't know how to describe it, and I banged my head  
16 there. They put it down as an accident, but it wasn't;  
17 it was done deliberately.

18 LADY SMITH: With that date, that would suggest that would  
19 be a month or two before you were discharged.

20 A. Yes.

21 LADY SMITH: I know dates are difficult, but roughly does  
22 that fit with your memory or not?

23 A. Yes.

24 MR PEOPLES: I think, my Lady, it does fit with the dates  
25 anyway.

1 LADY SMITH: Yes, in [REDACTED] 1968.

2 MR PEOPLES: [REDACTED] would be the time that the QDE/QDF house  
3 cottage in [REDACTED] -- I think you'd been transferred in  
4 [REDACTED]

5 A. In the QDE/QDF house -- I wasn't aware that the names  
6 were QDE/QDF I remember, as you say, Aunt [REDACTED]  
7 I don't remember her husband, Mr QDE Aunt [REDACTED]  
8 was the one in the QDE/QDF household who administered  
9 punishment, not her husband, not to my recollection.

10 Q. I maybe didn't catch you. Did you tell us who did the  
11 punching?

12 A. This was -- I don't remember who did it, if it was  
13 a member of staff or ... I have in my mind Aunt [REDACTED]  
14 and I think I've given that in the statement that says  
15 that I was forced to say that by my parents, which  
16 I wasn't. I do have the scar here (indicating).

17 LADY SMITH: Anyway, it does seem to look like "punch on  
18 right eye" being recorded at that time.

19 A. Yes.

20 LADY SMITH: I don't suppose you punched yourself.

21 A. No. No, I'm not into self-harming, no.

22 MR PEOPLES: Aunt [REDACTED] do you think that was Mrs QDF  
23 or a cottage auntie or assistant?

24 A. I don't know. I don't know if Aunt [REDACTED] ... It seems  
25 that it would be Mrs QDE/QDF because it was only the

1 house parents that you called aunt and uncle; you didn't  
2 call other members of the staff aunts and uncle. But  
3 it's possible.

4 Q. Just then going back to --

5 A. And it says, "Punch on right eye, not serious". Well,  
6 I did get stitches and the scar is here. It's not my  
7 right eye, it should be left eye, because it's my left  
8 eye, this eye.

9 LADY SMITH: It would be right as the person who -- I'm not  
10 saying that's a correct recording, but I suppose --

11 A. It would be, yes.

12 LADY SMITH: -- if that was the occasion.

13 MR PEOPLES: Can I just then go back to page 9166, if I may,  
14 and paragraph 85. You mention that:

15 "One of QCX favourite punishments was putting you  
16 in the corner and beating you with the buckle of his  
17 belt."

18 That happened more than once then?

19 A. Oh yes, yes.

20 Q. And you mentioned an occasion when you received this  
21 treatment after you hit his daughter. You'd been  
22 playing with a toy, she wanted it, you refused, so she  
23 hit you --

24 A. And I retaliated, which normally, you wouldn't, but  
25 sometimes I did retaliate. I was a child.

- 1 Q. This is what **QCX** did?
- 2 A. Yes. And also, I had a doll and I always remember it  
3 was an old-fashioned doll and it was all connected like  
4 inside with rubber bands, he destroyed that doll.
- 5 Q. **QCX** did?
- 6 A. Because he knew that was my favourite toy.
- 7 Q. On this occasion, the one that you mention in  
8 paragraph 85, I think you tell us that that happened in  
9 front of everybody?
- 10 A. Yes, that was to make sure that everyone was aware,  
11 look, this is my child, youse have any problem with my  
12 biological children, this is what will happen to you.
- 13 Q. Okay. Then on the next paragraph, paragraph 86, you  
14 describe what happened after the first time you ran  
15 away. I think you maybe mentioned this earlier on, but  
16 just to be clear, you say:
- 17 "On that occasion, [you were] put in the cloakroom,  
18 stripped naked and given a good thrashing by **QCX**
- 19 Is that --
- 20 A. To me it was **QCX** but maybe in my child's mind I've  
21 morphed **QCX** into someone else, but **QCX** is the person  
22 I remember most receiving the punishments from.
- 23 Q. But you do remember an occasion when you ran away --
- 24 A. Oh yes --
- 25 Q. -- whether it was **QCX** or otherwise, that you were in

1 the cloakroom --

2 A. I was in the cloakroom because I always remember there  
3 was a storm that particular night and to this day  
4 I don't like the sound of the wind howling.

5 Q. And whoever was responsible, you were stripped --

6 A. Your clothes were taken from you so you wouldn't run  
7 away again.

8 Q. And you were given a good thrashing?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Can you help us with what type of thrashing on that  
11 occasion -- have you a memory of what form --

12 A. It would be with a belt. Another thing was with towels,  
13 but that mostly happened -- in the cloakroom when you  
14 got a good thrashing it was with the belt.

15 Q. And you say on that occasion, you were left in freezing  
16 cold conditions and there was a storm, as you've told  
17 us, on that occasion. You say, and we'll maybe come to  
18 this shortly, that you told your social worker,  
19 Mr Forsyth, and he came on that particular --

20 A. And I never saw -- Mr Forsyth, I thought he was  
21 sympathetic. I don't know because some social workers,  
22 I think, worked in Quarriers and some came from outside.  
23 I don't know. I never saw Mr Forsyth after that.

24 Q. Moving to page 9167, was this an occasion -- it's to do  
25 with your brother and something that happened with

- 1 Did you witness this?
- 2 A. Yes. It was the time he took my brother and he flung  
3 him against the wall and just kept grabbing him and  
4 pushing him against the wall. My brother was beaten  
5 very badly that time.
- 6 Q. And that involved picking him up, flinging him against  
7 the wall more than once, and you say he was bleeding  
8 during this incident?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. Have you any idea why he was treated this way?
- 11 A. He probably was caught calling him **QCX** or he had an  
12 argument with another child or fought or something. As  
13 I say, my brother was a very -- I have pictures of my  
14 brother at 7 years old and he looks like a 3 year-old  
15 because he was very, very small and puny. That's a word  
16 I can use to describe him.
- 17 Q. There's one other matter you deal with in your written  
18 statement, and this is the issue of the possibility that  
19 your brother was sexually abused.
- 20 A. My brother never actually said, but he made reference to  
21 it, and I said, **██████████** this is not long before he  
22 died, "what are you talking about?" He said, "I don't  
23 have to put it in words, you know what I'm meaning".  
24 Because something came on TV about -- and he said,  
25 "That's the bastard", excuse my language. He says,

1 "That's the bastard that did that to me". And it wasn't  
2 [REDACTED] QCX [REDACTED] And I said, [REDACTED] what are you talking  
3 about?" Because most of the abuse he suffered,  
4 I witnessed. He says, "I don't have to put it into  
5 words". And then later, you know, he spoke about being  
6 sexually abused, which I was not aware of, because that  
7 wouldn't have happened in front of all the children.  
8 But unfortunately, my brother is no longer with us to,  
9 you know ...

10 Q. The background to him making this statement to you and  
11 what you understood him to be saying is that he was  
12 watching television --

13 A. It was a news report. Before he died, my brother lived  
14 with me because he had had strokes and he wasn't well.  
15 I was in the kitchen and he called me, and I said,  
16 "What's wrong, [REDACTED] because I thought he was having a  
17 fit or something because he did have epileptic fits.  
18 I went in and he pointed at the TV and he said, "It's  
19 that bastard, that's the bastard". By that time --  
20 I did ask him what he was referring to and he says,  
21 "I don't need to put it into words. You should know".  
22 But then later, he made reference to being sexually  
23 abused, but it wasn't something that we discussed  
24 openly.

25 Q. He did at least say that that's what he was referring

- 1 to?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. And it was in the context of someone that he'd seen on  
4 the television who had been convicted of some offence?
- 5 A. Yes. I don't know who it was. It was something that  
6 was on TV. It was probably the news -- I'm assuming it  
7 was the news. I'm not a great television person. The  
8 television can be on in my house and I wouldn't be aware  
9 of what's going on; it's there to have a noise. But  
10 unfortunately, not long after that, my brother took  
11 another massive stroke and had to be put into care,  
12 where, you know, seven years ago he died in care because  
13 he lost the power of speech and the power of everything.
- 14 Q. In terms of -- just to move on then to reporting of  
15 abuse, which is something you deal with in your  
16 statement also at page 9168, and I think you've  
17 mentioned already -- paragraph 93. You told this  
18 Mr Forsyth what happened when you ran away, the occasion  
19 when you were stripped naked, thrashed and left in the  
20 cloakroom. You told him about that?
- 21 A. Yes, and I remember the kids being questioned and asked,  
22 but then I don't know if this -- Mr Mortimer makes  
23 reference to having investigated my accusations and he  
24 deemed them unfounded.
- 25 Q. Right. So your memory is that having told Mr Forsyth

- 1           about this, you've got a memory of some form of  
2           investigation --
- 3       A.   Yes.
- 4       Q.   -- and the children being asked questions.  But I think  
5           your position is that so far as you can tell, it was  
6           swept under the carpet and nothing changed?
- 7       A.   Yes, that's what happened.
- 8       Q.   The only thing that changed was that Mr Forsyth  
9           disappeared and you had a new social worker?
- 10      A.   I'm sure his name was Mr Borthwick.  I remember  
11         Mr Borthwick.
- 12      Q.   And I don't think you found him someone that was easy to  
13         talk to?
- 14      A.   No, not at all.
- 15      Q.   Did you ever say anything to him?
- 16      A.   Yes.
- 17      Q.   What was the response?
- 18      A.   That basically, get on with it, you're here, you have to  
19         make the most of it and deal with it the best you can.  
20         I'm not saying that's verbatim, but basically.
- 21      Q.   What sort of things were you trying to tell him?
- 22      A.   I was trying to tell him that we were abused on a daily  
23         basis, we were punished for things that we shouldn't  
24         have been punished for.  Just basically telling him  
25         about everyday life because they would come and ask you

1 questions, how are things, how's school and everything,  
2 but when you broached the subject of abuse it was, you  
3 know, everything else seems to be fine, you're doing  
4 good at school, and that was sort of ignored.

5 I don't understand why Quarriers have a record of  
6 when I made an accusation, that Mr Mortimer's written  
7 a report, but there's no report about the other  
8 accusations or the other complaints. I don't know if  
9 they're there and I just haven't been given them or they  
10 weren't filed or they weren't archived.

11 Because also they disagreed with me that I was under  
12 [REDACTED] QCY/QCZ care when I visited Quarriers. They  
13 said, no, no, you weren't with [REDACTED] QCY/QCZ and  
14 I said I was because their children were called [REDACTED]  
15 [REDACTED] I remember that as clear as day.

16 Q. Just one place where there is reference to an  
17 investigation concerning you, can we go back to  
18 QAR.001.003.9605. I think we looked at this earlier  
19 this afternoon for a different purpose, to just put some  
20 dates on things.

21 If we scroll down, I think we've already looked at  
22 the first couple of paragraphs just to see -- this is to  
23 do with the reason for your transfer and so forth and  
24 who was your new house parents. And it seemed to be

25 [REDACTED] QDE/QDF

This letter's written on

1           3 September 1968, which is the month after the entry we  
2           looked at about you being punched on the right eye.

3           A. Mm-hm.

4           Q. It says there in the third paragraph that:

5                     "[You] absconded one day after returning from  
6                     a holiday which you spent with your parents [it says]  
7                     and whilst at home [you] made allegations about domestic  
8                     help employed to assist the [REDACTED] QDE/QDF These allegations  
9                     were repeated to me by [I think it's you and your  
10                    parents] when they returned you to Quarriers' care.

11           I fully investigated these and I'm quite sure that the  
12           child was merely using this as a reason to return home.

13           This is a perfectly understandable thing for [REDACTED] to do  
14           since she is obviously very attached to her parents" --

15           A. That's where I have a big problem. I was never attached  
16           to my parents.

17           Q. Right.

18           A. Never. My mother -- today, I mean, I've been thinking  
19           a lot about her today because it's 26 years ago [REDACTED]  
20           that she died. But my mother -- of all the things that  
21           happened to me in Quarriers Homes, whether it was [REDACTED] QCX  
22           the [REDACTED] QDE/QDF whoever did it, I always blamed my mother.  
23           It was her fault. I resented my mother and I never,  
24           ever had a mother-daughter relationship with my mother.  
25           I won't say I hated her because that's -- I had to have

1 some feelings towards her because she gave me life, but  
2 it wasn't much of a life she gave me. I overcame all  
3 that and in the end, before she died, I made peace with  
4 her. But I never had a relationship with my parents.

5 My father I barely knew, you know. So that  
6 I totally disagree with it. Going home on holiday,  
7 I don't remember going home on holiday, I remember going  
8 to Girvan, but that was a Quarriers Homes holiday. And  
9 if I had gone home on holiday, it wouldn't have been to  
10 my parents. My parents -- you know, things that were  
11 told to me later by other members of my family, my  
12 parents had like a love-hate relationship, one day  
13 I love you, one day I hate you, and they had a yo-yo  
14 relationship. And eventually, my mother -- my brothers  
15 ended up in Dr Guthrie's, I think it was.

16 Q. I suppose what this letter does show is that at least  
17 something was raised as an allegation --

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. -- at a time when you were in the QDE/QDF cottage. It  
20 seems to have been interpreted that it was an allegation  
21 against domestic help employed to assist the QDE/QDF  
22 Can you remember now what you think was said in this  
23 context? Because it seems that someone's made an  
24 allegation concerning someone in the QDE/QDF

25 A. I always remember the name [REDACTED] for some strange

1           reason. Whether that was a domestic help -- but the  
2           name ████████ sticks in my mind, but I can't actually  
3           pinpoint why.

4           Q. For example, her Ladyship did refer to the entry where  
5           you were punched in the right eye. I am just trying to  
6           see, is there any connection or can you recall whether  
7           one was connected to the other?

8           A. I think I must have made that -- that's when I made --  
9           because I did get stitches in my eye and I made the  
10          complaint. I don't know whether the doctors -- because  
11          everybody worked for Quarriers Homes, the hospital was  
12          in Quarriers Homes, you weren't taken outside to  
13          a doctor, everybody was inside. So they were all  
14          complicit in their actions and they all worked for  
15          Quarriers, so ...

16          Q. But whatever investigation was made and why, you're  
17          quite clear in your own mind that you did report from  
18          time to time these --

19          A. Yes, I did.

20          Q. And indeed these things happened that you got told --

21          A. They happened, clearly.

22          Q. I've just got a couple more things to ask you. One  
23          is -- I think you've kind of already told us a bit about  
24          the records because we've looked at the records and  
25          I think we can sense that you've seen some records and

1           you've seen perhaps more recently -- and I think in your  
2           statement you really feel there's not a lot in them, and  
3           what is there you don't necessarily agree with the  
4           description of.

5           A. I totally disagree -- and in my opinion, now, as an  
6           adult, I think -- well, if my behaviour changed so  
7           drastically, why didn't someone question, why is this  
8           child changing. Because for a child to change from  
9           being loving and caring to being this monster, why? But  
10          I don't remember me being loud-mouthed or being a bully.  
11          Because basically, tell me I'm loud-mouthed and bullying  
12          staff, no. You couldn't bully or make demands to the  
13          staff because you would have been punished. It was  
14          impossible to make demands to the staff.

15          Q. What you do remember, if I've understood your evidence  
16          today and in your statement, is with the **QCY/QCZ**  
17          you have reasonably happy memories.

18          A. The **QCY/QCZ** were fine. I don't have bad memories.  
19          Being disciplined, being put in a corner or something,  
20          being told to go to bed early or you were not allowed to  
21          watch a particular programme on TV -- not that you got  
22          to watch a lot of TV, but once homework and everything  
23          was done, your chores were -- there was things that you  
24          could watch. Those to me are punishments, that's  
25          discipline, that's acceptable.

1 Q. But the behaviour that -- we've looked at those entries  
2 about the different descriptions and in the **QCY/QCZ**  
3 time you don't quarrel with the descriptions, you don't  
4 have a problem with the house parents, it would appear,  
5 even any discipline they administered.

6 A. Maybe --

7 Q. If I could just put the point that if -- you have now  
8 told us when you got to the **QCX/SPO** cottage, or when  
9 they were house parents, and indeed in the **QDE/QDF**  
10 things were rather different.

11 A. Maybe I did behave like that, but there was obviously  
12 a reason for it. You can't change. But I don't  
13 remember being loud-mouthed and I don't remember being  
14 demanding of the staff ever. Maybe my behaviour  
15 changed, I wasn't quite as quiet or as willing to do  
16 chores and things. That's a possibility.

17 Q. But your point is that if that was the case, if there  
18 was a discernible change in your behaviour, someone  
19 should have been asking why?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Because you started off with -- being someone that is  
22 described as -- in fairly glowing terms.

23 A. I don't think a child changes so radically unless  
24 there's a reason.

25 Q. Can you then, lastly, and I think it's best if I just

1 ask you to just describe in your own words, what you  
2 feel the general impact has been of how you were treated  
3 as a child in Quarriers? I think you say that certainly  
4 it stays with you forever.

5 A. It stays with you forever, but I can't put it -- the  
6 best way I can say, I've compartmentalised it for years.  
7 I didn't think about it, just left it there and stuff.  
8 But, yes, it has affected me and the way I deal with  
9 people. I don't make friends easy, but I didn't do that  
10 as a child anyway. In some ways, it's made me  
11 a stronger person. It made me a more determined person  
12 because I says, "I'm not going to be this person they  
13 say I'm going to be, I'm going to do something with my  
14 life, I'm not going to be an idiot or someone who ends  
15 up in prison or ends up on the streets or something like  
16 that. I will do something with my life". I'm not  
17 boasting, but I was always considered relatively  
18 intelligent at school and good at school, but that's  
19 because I liked it. I'm not saying -- you know.

20 But the repercussions, like psychologically, I find  
21 it very difficult -- I mean, I have three children and  
22 I always think that because of my childhood,  
23 I overcompensated and spoiled my children too much.  
24 That can be good or bad. In the case of one of my  
25 children, it was bad because I enabled him and did

1 everything for him and unfortunately he ended up in  
2 a bad place. I have to say that has nothing to do with  
3 Quarriers, but I feel guilty about that, but I think  
4 it's because I didn't want my children to have the life  
5 I had whilst I was in Quarriers.

6 But it does reflect it, it reflects your ability to  
7 make relationships with other people and to confide in  
8 other people. You always tend to put a happy smile on  
9 your face. Even like today, you can see I'm here and  
10 I seem relatively calm, or I think I do anyway, but  
11 inside my heart is breaking because it was heartbreaking  
12 for me, and the thing that affects me most was when my  
13 grandmother came to visit and she wasn't allowed to  
14 visit me because above all things on this earth my  
15 grandmother was my world. But I'm not saying it didn't  
16 have a good effect on me, because it made me be  
17 a determined person, it made me be studious, it made me  
18 decide I want to do something with life, because you're  
19 told when you leave here, you'll end up on the streets,  
20 you'll end up being an alcoholic, which -- at that point  
21 I wasn't aware my mother was an alcoholic, I wasn't  
22 aware my mother was a prostitute. I only discovered  
23 that when I got my records from Quarriers Homes, so that  
24 explained a lot of my mother's behaviour. I wasn't  
25 aware my father was an extremely violent man. So you

1 know ...

2 Q. Fiona, we have your statement about how you've got on in  
3 life and you do tell us about how you managed and how  
4 you coped and we will read it carefully.

5 A. To this day, I can discuss what happened with you, but  
6 I can't sit down -- my son is like 38 years old, my  
7 daughter's 37, my youngest is 28. They know a bit of  
8 it, but I can't sit and discuss what went on with me in  
9 its entirety with them because I don't want them to feel  
10 hurt. I don't want them to feel my hurt.

11 MR PEOPLES: Well, thank you for discussing it with us  
12 today, and these are all the questions that I have for  
13 you today and I would just like to finish by thanking  
14 you for coming today and telling us about your  
15 experiences.

16 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding questions for this  
17 witness? No.

18 Fiona, it just remains for me to thank you very much  
19 for engaging with the inquiry in the way you have done,  
20 providing such a detailed written statement and coming  
21 along today to talk about your experiences at Quarriers.  
22 You've provided a lot of information that's going to be  
23 really helpful in the work that we're doing here. I'm  
24 now able to get you go and I hope you're able to relax  
25 this evening. Thank you.

1 A. Thank you.

2 (The witness withdrew)

3 LADY SMITH: Once more, people will no doubt have noticed  
4 a number of names were mentioned by this witness, which  
5 are names that are not to be disclosed outside the  
6 inquiry's hearing room. The same rules apply because  
7 they're all covered by my restriction order.

8 Mr Peoples.

9 MR PEOPLES: That's the evidence for today. We will have  
10 some more oral evidence from applicants tomorrow as well  
11 as, I think, some read-ins if we can fit that in as  
12 well.

13 LADY SMITH: 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

14 (4.10 pm)

15 (The hearing adjourned until 10.00 am  
16 on Wednesday 31 October 2018)

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"ALAN" (sworn) .....1

Questions from MS RATTRAY .....1

"GEORGE" (sworn) .....31

Questions from MS RATTRAY .....31

"FIONA" (affirmed) .....70

Questions from MR PEOPLES .....70

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