

1 Wednesday, 14 November 2018

2 (10.00 am)

3 LADY SMITH: Good morning. We return, as promised last  
4 night, to some more oral evidence today, and I'm going  
5 to begin by inviting Ms Rattray to explain what's  
6 happening next.

7 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, the first witness this morning is  
8 Stuart McKay.

9 STUART MCKAY (sworn)

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

11 It sounds as though you're in a good position for  
12 the microphone. It's very important that you use it so  
13 everybody can hear you and particularly the  
14 stenographers can hear you through the sound system.  
15 I'm now going to pass over to Ms Rattray and she will  
16 explain to you what she wants you to do next.

17 Ms Rattray.

18 Questions from MS RATTRAY

19 MS RATTRAY: Good morning, Stuart.

20 A. Good morning.

21 Q. You have been told that in front of you in the red  
22 folder you'll find a paper copy of your witness  
23 statement that you have provided to the inquiry.

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. When I refer to parts of the statement, it will also

1 appear on the screen in front of you, so if you prefer  
2 to look at the paper one or the screen, use whichever  
3 works best for you.

4 A. Okay.

5 Q. The inquiry has given your witness statement  
6 a particular reference and that is WIT.003.001.6837. To  
7 start with, if you could look at the paper copy and go  
8 straight to the back page, which will be page 6907,  
9 otherwise page 71. Can you confirm that you have signed  
10 your statement?

11 A. Yes, I have signed the statement.

12 Q. At paragraph 292, just above your signature, you state  
13 you have no objection to your witness statement being  
14 published as part of the evidence to the inquiry and you  
15 believe the facts stated in your witness statement are  
16 true.

17 A. That's true, yes.

18 Q. You can put that to one side for just now.

19 What I'm going to do is outline generally the time  
20 you were working at Quarriers and the different roles  
21 you were working as at that stage. Then I'm going to  
22 touch on -- you have a lengthy and very detailed  
23 statement and for the purposes of today -- we've  
24 obviously read your statement very carefully, but I'm  
25 just going to touch on parts of it --

- 1 A. Right.
- 2 Q. -- to highlight certain parts of your evidence.
- 3 LADY SMITH: Can I just find out something. Stuart,  
4 you have brought some notes with you, have you, to help  
5 yourself?
- 6 A. Yes, it's just dates, actually, of when I worked in the  
7 different departments.
- 8 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much. That's very helpful.
- 9 MS RATTRAY: In general terms, you worked for Quarriers from  
10 1973 to 2004.
- 11 A. Correct.
- 12 Q. Your first post was as assistant youth leader and you  
13 were an assistant youth leader for about a year from  
14 July 1973 to the following summer, 1974.
- 15 A. That's correct.
- 16 Q. Then you took the post of being a leisure officer in the  
17 epilepsy centre at Quarriers.
- 18 A. Correct.
- 19 Q. And you worked there from 1974 to 1978?
- 20 A. Correct.
- 21 Q. At that stage you were seconded to Jordanhill College  
22 and there you were studying full-time and gained your  
23 qualification as a social worker?
- 24 A. Correct.
- 25 Q. You then returned to work in Quarriers in 1980 and

1 worked as a residential in-house social worker at  
2 Quarriers from 1980 to 1984.

3 A. 1982; then I went into respite.

4 Q. I think the dates I have, and you can correct me if I'm  
5 wrong --

6 A. What paragraph is it, please?

7 Q. Sorry, I think I've taken these from various parts of  
8 your statement. If I can just confirm, the information  
9 that I've pulled from your statement is that after the  
10 four years as a leisure officer, that took you to 1978?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And then you were at college for two years?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Which would take us to 1980.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And therefore you returned in 1980 and worked, is it for  
17 four years, you think?

18 A. I think it's two years.

19 LADY SMITH: It was paragraph 12, I think, Stuart, which  
20 must have been the date in your mind when you gave your  
21 statement. You said you started your role in the  
22 respite unit in 1984.

23 A. Right. I believe now it was 1982.

24 MS RATTRAY: Okay. Because you did mention to me that there  
25 was one date that you had got wrong and you were

1 referring to 1984, and it was in context of the  
2 fostering and adoption campaign.

3 A. That's why I -- because it was in 1982 and I believe  
4 that Strathclyde did their adoption campaign and that  
5 was in the second year of my being a social worker in  
6 Quarriers. So it was 1982. So I went into respite in  
7 1982.

8 Q. So in fact your time as a residential social worker was  
9 two years rather than four years?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. And it would be in 1982 then that you moved forward and  
12 became the manager of a respite unit?

13 A. Correct.

14 Q. So that would have been from 1982 to 2004?

15 A. Correct.

16 Q. Right. That's clear.

17 The first matter I would like to ask you about is  
18 the recruitment process for how you first came to work  
19 for Quarriers back in 1973. You tell us in your  
20 statement that your background was actually in heavy  
21 engineering and working as a design draftsman.

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. What made you change direction in your career and want  
24 to work with children?

25 A. I always wanted to be a draftsman. When I became

1 a draftsman it wasn't just what I thought it would be,  
2 and I saw this job. I'd been in the Boys' Brigade for  
3 most of my adult -- most of my life at that time and  
4 I enjoyed working with the boys. And I saw this job  
5 advertised in Quarriers and thought I'd apply for it,  
6 and that's what happened.

7 Q. I think you say in your statement that you didn't think  
8 you had any chance of getting the job because you  
9 didn't --

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. -- have any qualifications or formal work experience  
12 working with children?

13 A. That's right, yes.

14 Q. If we move to page 6838, otherwise page 2, paragraphs 6  
15 and 7, there you tell us about how you were interviewed  
16 by, firstly, Joe Mortimer.

17 A. Yes, I was interviewed by Mr Mortimer, that's correct,  
18 yes.

19 Q. You say that he was the deputy director --

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. -- as you understood it?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And he asked you about your involvement with the  
24 Boys' Brigade and the Outward Bound schemes and the Duke  
25 of Edinburgh Awards?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. You then tell us that you were sent up to see the  
3 director.
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. And you think his name was Munro?
- 6 A. Yes. I'm still not sure whether that was his name, but  
7 I have a feeling it was a Mr Munro.
- 8 Q. Certainly at one stage there was someone there by  
9 the name of Hector Munro who was there, so that may well  
10 be the person you were speaking to. Can you tell us  
11 a little bit about the interview with Munro?
- 12 A. All he said was -- he looked at something that was in  
13 front of him and he said, "I see you've done some  
14 fencing", and I said, "Yes, that's it?" "That's fine",  
15 and that was the interview over.
- 16 Q. You say in your statement that was the extent of the  
17 interview, there was not another question or comment?
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. You recall that you did have to provide a reference from  
20 your former employer?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. You say that you remember hearing later on that the  
23 minister might have been annoyed because you hadn't been  
24 asked whether you were a Christian?
- 25 A. Yes. The minister was my next-door neighbour at the

1 time and I must have told him that I was surprised that  
2 I wasn't asked and he was a bit annoyed, yes.

3 Q. You say the minister was your next-door neighbour.  
4 Initially you were living in Quarrier's Village?

5 A. I was living in cottage 25, yes.

6 Q. I understand you were there with your wife and your  
7 child?

8 A. That's correct, at the time, yes.

9 Q. The first post you took was as an assistant youth leader  
10 in the youth section. What training or induction were  
11 you given for that role?

12 A. There was none whatsoever.

13 Q. What was the what we would now call the management  
14 structure for that role? Did you have someone that you  
15 were reporting to?

16 A. Yes. I was there as an assistant youth leader to  
17 Mr [REDACTED] QDY [REDACTED], who was the [REDACTED] and there  
18 was also a female leader assistant youth leader there as  
19 well called Elsa and that was the team, that was the  
20 team.

21 Q. Do you know who [REDACTED] QDY [REDACTED] reported to?

22 A. He reported to Mr Mortimer.

23 Q. At page 6840 at the foot of that page, otherwise page 4,  
24 paragraph 17, you tell us a little about your role as an  
25 assistant youth leader.



- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Can you tell us what it was you were doing?
- 3 A. I was more or less given a free hand by **QDY**. He  
4 mainly worked with boys and he was more involved with  
5 football, arranging football. I told him what my  
6 interests were and he said I can, you know -- so  
7 I started like a model class, I started a fishing club,  
8 a tie-fishing club, and one or two other things, and  
9 I was just allowed to go in and do those as long as it  
10 was within my working hours.
- 11 Q. Those were activities for the children?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. After school, at weekends, and during holidays?
- 14 A. Yes, correct, yes.
- 15 Q. I think it's fair to say from your statement that you  
16 had a difference of opinion or approach compared to  
17 **QDY**.
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. In particular, at the foot of page 6841, otherwise  
20 page 5, paragraph 21, Mr **QDY** expressed to you certain  
21 views he had about certain children?
- 22 A. Yes. He indicated that he was very glad that I was  
23 there because I was interested in working with the  
24 children who had epilepsy because before I was there he  
25 had to work with the boys with epilepsy -- and the

1 girls -- and he was pleased that I was happy to take all  
2 over that role. He found it very difficult working with  
3 people with disabilities.

4 Q. You say over the page at 6842, page 6, paragraph 24,  
5 that you formed the view that Mr QDY didn't appear to  
6 have any understanding of the problems children in care  
7 may have?

8 A. I got that impression from him. He didn't have much  
9 empathy or understanding -- and in fact, as I see there,  
10 he did on a couple of occasions refer to the children as  
11 "miscreants".

12 Q. You go on to say that he was very much into punishment.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Can you explain what happened or the basis on which you  
15 formed that view?

16 A. He ... He had a tendency if any boys or girls did not  
17 do what he was expecting them to do, he would punish  
18 them inasmuch as he would stop them going to the club  
19 and stop allowing them to play football, that kind of  
20 thing.

21 Q. Did you take issue with the nature of the punishment or  
22 was it --

23 A. Not at the time, I never took -- said anything to him,  
24 no.

25 Q. I think in your statement you say that you felt that

1           privileges were withdrawn and sometimes for lengthy  
2           periods of time?

3           A. Yes. Especially the boys. For some reason. He would  
4           ban them from the tuck shop for weeks -- and the tuck  
5           shop was something that everybody looked forward to  
6           because, obviously, they could spend their pocket money  
7           on sweets and crisps and juice and things like that, and  
8           also play pool and other games. And therefore to stop  
9           them doing that, it was definitely seen as a punishment,  
10          as far as the boys were concerned.

11          Q. And what kind of behaviour on the part of the boys gave  
12          rise to receiving a punishment of that length of time?

13          A. If they were playing football, for example, and one or  
14          two of the boys were a bit temperamental and would maybe  
15          not play as well as they should have or just gave up,  
16          and this would annoy him and therefore he'd then put  
17          them on to some kind of punishment like that.

18          Q. You indicate in your statement that you thought  
19          punishment was being given out by him for no  
20          particularly good reason and that the vast majority of  
21          times the punishment was out of proportion?

22          A. I thought so.

23          Q. To what the child had done?

24          A. I thought so.

25          Q. I think prior to the parting of the ways between you and

1           **QDY**, there was going to be an event at Quarriers.

2           A. Yes.

3           Q. You tell us about that event at page 6845, otherwise

4           page 9. It appeared to be an event to showcase what

5           people -- what the children in the youth section were

6           doing.

7           A. That's correct.

8           Q. Can you tell us a little about that event?

9           A. Yes. I can't remember what the event was or what else

10          was going to be at this event, but as far as the youth

11          section was concerned, **QDY** had decided that he was

12          going to get a child to take part in -- what do you call

13          it? I can't think of the word just now.

14          Q. It might help, because I've read the statement and

15          understand the context, it was a kind of parade; is that

16          right?

17          A. Yes, he was going through the letters of the alphabet

18          and he said to me "I want you to get somebody to do A",

19          so that was archery. Archery was something which

20          I introduced because I did archery before I came to

21          Quarriers. So I gave some young person a bow and what

22          have you. The next one was B for basketball and C for

23          cricket, D for whatever, and I said to **QDY** "We don't

24          do all those sports", and he said, "Just get somebody to

25          do it", all this kind of thing.

1           The unfortunate thing I couldn't get was an older  
2           boy to carry a basketball and the only person I could  
3           get to do it was a small boy, and this basketball was  
4           nearly as big as the boy. As soon as he walked in,  
5           **QDY** started shouting at me and telling me, asking  
6           me what I was doing get a boy that size to carry  
7           a basketball and all the rest of it and just sort of  
8           made a fool of me in front of people.

9           The people on the stage -- it was actually Dr Minto,  
10          Mr Mortimer, Mr Dunbar, Mr Gill, and others -- and  
11          I just saw red and I swore at him and walked out.

12         Q. I think you say at the end of paragraph 32 that  
13          obviously his behaviour towards you annoyed you, but you  
14          say that you were also annoyed that he was trying to  
15          make out that you were doing all the activities --

16         A. That's correct, yes.

17         Q. -- he was intending to display to the audience?

18         A. Yes. I don't remember him playing basketball, I don't  
19          remember him playing half the sports he was indicating  
20          they were doing.

21         Q. And there would have been people from outside --

22         A. Eventually. This parade was a dress rehearsal for the  
23          real thing.

24         Q. And various people from outside Quarriers were going to  
25          come in and watch this?

- 1 A. That was my impression, yes.
- 2 Q. You say at the end of your statement that those people  
3 would have been given a false impression --
- 4 A. Correct.
- 5 Q. -- about what the children in fact did?
- 6 A. Correct.
- 7 Q. And that was something that you weren't happy with?
- 8 A. No, it went against the grain, yes.
- 9 Q. Whilst at that stage, as we know from your statement,  
10 you thought you were going to be sacked because you had  
11 sworn at --
- 12 A. I assumed I had to be sacked, yes.
- 13 Q. -- **QDY** and you went to hand in your notice in any  
14 event and in fact Dr Minto said he didn't want you to go  
15 and suggested that because you were interested in  
16 working with people who had epilepsy, that he would find  
17 a role for you as a leisure officer.
- 18 A. He always wanted to create a post as a leisure officer  
19 and this, he thought, was an ideal opportunity.
- 20 Q. That in fact was a post working with adults rather than  
21 children?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. But before you moved on to that, you tell us that you  
24 took an interest in the children who had epilepsy and  
25 were living in the village?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Can you tell us a bit about your involvement with those  
3 children in your post as assistant youth leader?
- 4 A. I allocated a period of time just after school, between  
5 school and teatime, to go and play games or give  
6 activities to the young boys in the cottage -- or the  
7 young girls, I also did the girls as well.
- 8 Q. Where did the children who had epilepsy live?
- 9 A. They stayed in cottage 26.
- 10 Q. I think you tell us that initially the boys were in  
11 a unit called --
- 12 A. That's right, yes. They were in Elim.
- 13 Q. Elim?
- 14 A. Yes, they were there first under Sister [REDACTED] QLS [REDACTED] .
- 15 Q. And then they moved to cottage 26?
- 16 A. Yes, because they wanted to use Elim for another  
17 purpose.
- 18 Q. And the girls who had epilepsy were in cottage 29?
- 19 A. Yes, correct.
- 20 Q. What impressions did you form at that time about the  
21 care that was provided to the children who had epilepsy?
- 22 A. In Elim or in cottage 26?
- 23 Q. If we start with Elim.
- 24 A. In Elim I felt that Sister [REDACTED] QLS [REDACTED] did not have any  
25 feelings for the boys, didn't again show any empathy or

1 understanding, and was very strict with them.

2 Q. I know you have something to say about what happened in  
3 cottage 26, but I'll ask you about that later on.

4 At this stage I want to move on to another topic and  
5 that is the question of training, any training given to  
6 you. At page 6850 you tell us that during your time as  
7 leisure officer, when you were working in the epilepsy  
8 centre, you decided that you wanted to undertake some  
9 study.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Can you tell us what happened then?

12 A. I felt that I couldn't imagine myself remaining in that  
13 job for a long time, and I felt I needed some  
14 qualification, and I approached Mr Mortimer and he said  
15 that if I could find a course to do myself, and if  
16 I passed this course, then he would accept that I was  
17 serious in wanting to train and therefore he would send  
18 me on a two-year full-time course.

19 So I went on an Open University course for a year  
20 and then Mr Mortimer, as he said, he seconded me for  
21 two years, seconded for two years to Jordanhill College.

22 Q. And what was the Open University course you undertook?

23 A. At the time it was called "The Handicapped Person in the  
24 Community".

25 Q. You say at the time it was Joe Mortimer you spoke to



- 1           about possible studying and training?
- 2       A.   Yes.
- 3       Q.   And there wasn't a training officer as such in Quarriers
- 4           at that time?
- 5       A.   No, there was not, no.
- 6       Q.   You tell us a little about your study at Jordanhill.  In
- 7           particular, to what extent did any of your training or
- 8           study involve issues of what we would now call child
- 9           protection?
- 10      A.   I can't remember much about that, to be quite honest.
- 11           I know that we did have -- part of the course was to do
- 12           with Children's Hearing system, but I can't remember
- 13           much about the course at all, sorry.
- 14      Q.   You do indicate that there might have been part of
- 15           a course which perhaps focused on keeping records.
- 16      A.   Yes.  Yes, there was record-keeping, yes.
- 17      Q.   Was that highlighted as being something that was
- 18           important?
- 19      A.   Oh yes, yes.
- 20      Q.   I'm now going to move on and ask you some questions
- 21           about your role when you returned to Quarriers as
- 22           a residential social worker from 1980 to 1982.  We find
- 23           your narrative of that starting at page 6851, otherwise
- 24           page 15.
- 25           You tell us -- and I think this is where you refer

1 to 1984 and that's incorrect as well.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. It's 1982?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And when you returned to Quarriers in 1980, you were  
6 a residential social worker, you say, until the cottages  
7 started to close down?

8 A. That's correct.

9 Q. Can you tell us what your understanding was of why  
10 cottages were beginning to close down?

11 A. At the time, Strathclyde region decided that children's  
12 homes of the type that Quarriers was, that was not  
13 suitable for children, they should not be in group  
14 homes, therefore they wanted to start adopting and  
15 fostering. We, as the residential social workers, were  
16 involved in this process of trying to get the children  
17 fostered or adopted, so we worked alongside the external  
18 social workers.

19 Q. In relation to other responsibilities you had as an  
20 in-house social worker, you tell us about that at  
21 page 6852, otherwise page 16, paragraph 59. I'm not  
22 going to ask you about any detail of that because  
23 I think we're hearing from other in-house social workers  
24 as well and we are quite familiar with the role you had  
25 at that time.

1           You do tell us at page 6853, otherwise page 17, that  
2           your view was that you were well supervised in your role  
3           as an in-house social worker.

4           A. I felt I was, yes.

5           Q. Can you tell us a little about the supervision and  
6           support you received?

7           A. The senior social worker I worked under was  
8           a Mr Alf Craigmile and he saw almost on a daily basis,  
9           he saw all the social workers almost on a daily basis.  
10          And Mr Mortimer, every now and again, would call in just  
11          to see how things were getting on, because we had the  
12          regular meetings, weekly meetings -- I think it was on  
13          a Monday morning all the social workers met -- just to  
14          see and to discuss what we were doing for the week. And  
15          that's when Mr Mortimer would periodically appear, just  
16          to see how we were getting on. But Mr Craigmile was my  
17          supervisor.

18          Q. And you also mentioned someone called Ian Brodie.

19          A. Ian Brodie, he was a student supervisor and he also gave  
20          me great support when I went back as a newly qualified  
21          social worker and helped me at times just with -- if  
22          I was doing reports for hearings, you know, for the  
23          Children's Panel, so he was a good help as well.

24          Q. One aspect of your role as an in-house social worker  
25          I would like to ask you about, and you tell us in some

1 detail at page 6855, otherwise page 19, from  
2 paragraph 71 onwards, is in relation to speaking with  
3 children in Quarriers.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Can you tell us more about what arrangements were either  
6 put in place or you put in place yourself whereby you  
7 were able to maintain contact with the children you were  
8 responsible for?

9 A. The social workers -- we just did our own thing inasmuch  
10 as when the opportunity -- if we did have to speak to  
11 a particular child for any reason, then we would just  
12 arrange with that child, I would meet them when they  
13 came out of school or go to the cottage and see them  
14 during the day and periodically during the evening if  
15 that was possible.

16 Q. And how straightforward was it to have the opportunity  
17 to speak to a child on his or her own?

18 A. It wasn't always possible, but I had approximately  
19 six cottages and there was only one cottage where there  
20 was a slight problem with that. But generally, no, you  
21 could speak to children at any time and the cottage  
22 parents had no problems generally.

23 Q. You indicate there was one cottage where there might  
24 have been a problem.

25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. What was the nature of the problem?
- 2 A. Just the fact that the cottage mother did not like  
3 social workers, either internal or external  
4 social workers, and would indicate that to us in our  
5 presence in front of the children. That created a wee  
6 bit of a problem at times.
- 7 Q. Were there any ways that you were able to get round that  
8 in order to speak with the children or was it simply not  
9 possible to do that?
- 10 A. There was virtually ... We just couldn't get anywhere  
11 because those children were told that we weren't --  
12 "Don't listen to them, they're social workers". So to  
13 try and have a conversation with them wasn't very easy  
14 and we never got -- well, I never got anywhere.
- 15 Q. Over the page in your statement at 6856, paragraph 75,  
16 you also tell us about the particular challenges of  
17 trying to maintain some form of contact with the  
18 children who had epilepsy.
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. Can you tell us about that?
- 21 A. The cottage parents, they made it difficult to talk to  
22 children on their own. They did not like that at all.  
23 Also, because of the nature of their handicap, they  
24 could not really say very much at times. They didn't  
25 have opinions about things and it was quite difficult at

1 times.

2 Q. You say in your statement that those children were  
3 restricted to the cottage.

4 A. They were virtually restricted to the cottage. The  
5 cottage parents would never let the children out on  
6 their own at any time, or in pairs at any time. The  
7 only time they got out of the cottage was during the  
8 time when I was there, if I took them out to play games,  
9 down to the sports centre, or out for a walk, or out  
10 just to run about. Apart from that, they were  
11 restricted to the cottage, yes.

12 Q. So would it be fair to say that the children with  
13 epilepsy were not given necessarily the same  
14 opportunities as children who didn't suffer from that  
15 condition?

16 A. Yes.

17 LADY SMITH: You mention your recollection of the nature of  
18 the drug regime for children with epilepsy in those  
19 days. Tell me a bit about that. In paragraph 75 you  
20 refer to it as:

21 "Children being highly drugged in those days."

22 A. Yes. I found this out that when I went to the epilepsy  
23 centre actually to work. The doctor at the time,  
24 Dr Maurice, he was attempting to lower the medication of  
25 all people's epilepsy because at the time he felt that

1           they were all over-drugged and that they weren't having  
2           a full life because of this.

3           So he was cutting the drugs down, the medication  
4           down, so that the young person or the child could do  
5           more. They may end up having more seizures, but in  
6           between had a better life.

7       LADY SMITH: When they were at the heavily drugged stage,  
8           what did that mean in practical terms for your ability  
9           to communicate with them?

10       A. It meant when you were trying to talk to them you could  
11           see in the way they were talking that they were drugged  
12           to an extent that they just maybe didn't understand  
13           properly or couldn't act properly.

14       LADY SMITH: Thank you.

15       A. As far as adults were concerned, I think it was  
16           Dr Maurice that used the term that they were zombied to  
17           an extent and this was why -- a lot of them had multiple  
18           drugs and he was trying to get them down to a maximum of  
19           three drugs, and therefore he had to do a lot of tests  
20           and things like that.

21       LADY SMITH: Thank you.

22       MS RATTRAY: Stuart, I'm going to ask you a little about the  
23           contact that children in Quarriers had with their own  
24           families. At page 6857, otherwise page 21, in  
25           paragraph 79 you tell us about that. You explain that:

1           "The local authority social workers managed contact  
2           between the children in Quarriers and their relatives  
3           outside. When a parents or relative wanted to establish  
4           contact with a resident child, the local authority  
5           social worker would make contact with the Quarriers  
6           social work department, there'd be some discussions, and  
7           then it'd be agreed that the parent or relative could  
8           come and visit on a particular day."

9           A. Mm-hm.

10          Q. And you would let the cottage parents know about that?

11          A. Yes.

12          Q. And then you say:

13                 "It would be down to the cottage parents to  
14                 orchestrate the visit with the local authority  
15                 social worker."

16          A. Yes, that's the way I remember it.

17          Q. Can you expand on that for us, to explain the extent to  
18                 which cottage parents were in fact involved in managing  
19                 contact visits between children and their families?

20          A. They just would ensure, of course, that the child was  
21                 going to be available that day or that time, and that it  
22                 suited the local authority social worker, and the  
23                 arrangement would be made that the social worker would  
24                 visit. It wasn't at weekends, it was always during the  
25                 week they visited, and not every time they came did the



1 residential social worker go to the meeting.

2 If it was one of the -- a more set-up meeting with  
3 the social worker to do with Children's Hearings and  
4 things like that, then we were always attending the  
5 meeting with the cottage parent. But if the  
6 social worker was just coming to do a visit to see the  
7 child, then it wasn't always the case that the  
8 residential social worker would be there, it'd just be  
9 the cottage parent, the child and the local authority  
10 social worker.

11 Q. You say at paragraph 81 on that page that in general  
12 terms, in terms of the cottages that you were  
13 responsible for, cottage parents appeared to be positive  
14 towards encouraging children to receive visits from  
15 their family members.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Were there any exceptions to that?

18 A. There was one exception. It wasn't one of my cottages,  
19 but one of the exceptions was cottage ... I referred to  
20 this. It was cottage 33 and that was Mr and Mrs QAH/SPO  
21 cottage. There were problems there with regards to  
22 visits.

23 Q. What kind of problems were there?

24 A. The fact that it wasn't actually one of my cottages, but  
25 it was just -- I suppose this is hearsay then, the fact

1 that -- no, it's not hearsay actually. We were actually  
2 informed that we had not to go into cottage 33, the  
3 social workers had not to go to cottage 33. We didn't  
4 know -- we had no reason, no reason was given, we were  
5 just told by ... I can't remember now whether it was  
6 Dr Minto or Mr Mortimer said that we had not to go into  
7 them. But the social worker was certainly welcome in  
8 every other cottage -- well, generally welcomed in other  
9 cottages.

10 Q. I think you tell us a little more about that at  
11 page 6893, otherwise page 57, of your statement at  
12 paragraphs 229 and 230.

13 A. Right, yes.

14 Q. You told us about it and the context appears to be that  
15 from what you told us that Mr and Mrs QAH/SPO and  
16 QAH, insisted that the children in their cottage  
17 call them mummy and daddy.

18 A. That's true, yes.

19 Q. And you say that, as far as you were concerned, cottage  
20 parents were not mummies and daddies.

21 A. Of course they weren't, but this particular couple  
22 insisted -- and I know that for a fact because when  
23 I was working in the respite unit, one of the young  
24 ladies that was brought up in the cottage referred to  
25 them as mummy -- and she was an adult at the time.

1 Q. You say that your views about whether the cottage  
2 parents should be addressed as that were generally  
3 shared by the other residential social workers; is that  
4 right?

5 A. Yes, it certainly was, yes.

6 Q. And you go on to say that QAH/SPO didn't like the  
7 residential social workers or the local authority  
8 social workers --

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. -- going into their cottage?

11 A. That's right, and at one point we were actually told we  
12 had not to go into the cottage, and yet that was part of  
13 our responsibility as residential social workers to  
14 visit the cottages, visit the cottage parents and things  
15 like that.

16 Q. From your perspective, your view was that meant that the  
17 cottage was not being monitored properly?

18 A. That's right, yes.

19 Q. And you say that all the social workers were against  
20 that view?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. When local authority social workers visited children  
23 that they had placed or were subject to supervision  
24 requirements at the time in the Children's Hearing, can  
25 you recall if they had any duty to visit them on

1 a particular time frame, how frequently that ought to  
2 be?

3 A. They had to visit them prior to every hearing and that  
4 was on a six-monthly basis, but I am not aware of any  
5 social worker that did not visit in between those  
6 periods of time. But they were not necessarily --  
7 I mean, you had some social workers visiting on a very  
8 regular basis and other ones who didn't visit just as  
9 regularly.

10 Q. In relation to visiting before every Children's Hearing  
11 or at least every six months, did you ever encounter  
12 a situation when you were there when a local authority  
13 social worker failed to do that?

14 A. No.

15 Q. I'm going to ask you now a little bit about records and  
16 keeping records. You tell us about that at page 6867 of  
17 your statement, otherwise page 32.

18 Can you tell us what kind of files you as an  
19 in-house social worker kept?

20 A. We kept files on each child and they were kept in  
21 a cabinet at our table.

22 Q. The house parents, did the house parents keep any files?

23 A. This is something I'm not sure about. I cannot remember  
24 any of them saying, "I'd better write this down", or  
25 anything like that. But I have spoken to a couple of

1 the cottage aunts who were cottage assistants and they  
2 said, yes, that they would write something down in a big  
3 diary, maybe what the young person was doing or if they  
4 had any problem with eating or any problem sleeping,  
5 that kind of thing. And that was passed on then. The  
6 staff who were coming on the next day or the next shift,  
7 they would read this so they could keep this going.

8 Where those diaries were kept, I do not know. And  
9 I had no reason really to know where they were kept.  
10 But whether there was any other notes kept by cottage  
11 parents, I don't know. I don't think there were.  
12 Certainly the two cottage assistants that I spoke to  
13 were not aware of any particular files. In fact, one of  
14 them couldn't remember if there was a filing cabinet.

15 Q. Do you know whether there was any arrangement whereby  
16 these diaries, or whatever they were, were reviewed by  
17 anyone?

18 A. I don't know whether they were or not. I don't think  
19 they were. I don't know though; I may be wrong about  
20 that.

21 Q. Can I take it from that that it wasn't part of your  
22 remit to review any records that may or may not have  
23 been kept by cottage parents?

24 A. No.

25 Q. You tell us in your statement about the types of events

1           you might note in a children's file. You make a comment  
2           at the end of paragraph 128 on that page, 32, and it's  
3           about whether positive or negative things were recorded  
4           in a file.

5           A. Yes.

6           Q. Can you explain the point you're making here?

7           A. Unfortunately, with hindsight, it sounds terrible, but  
8           it would appear that basically it was negative things  
9           that were written down. I'm not talking about the  
10          cottage parents, I'm talking about myself here, the fact  
11          that if somebody was behaving themselves, no problem, no  
12          problems at school, no problems in the cottage, no  
13          problems with friends, then there was not too much to  
14          write about. Whereas if someone was causing problems,  
15          either in the cottage or at school or with friends, then  
16          that would be recorded there.

17                 I'm talking about myself, I don't know about the  
18          other social workers, but I would say that I would have  
19          been more inclined, I think, to write more negative  
20          things.

21          Q. So to conclude that you say:

22                 "I suppose in that way the files weren't an accurate  
23          record of a particular child because they only showed  
24          negative things."

25          A. It looks as if that would be the case, yes.

1 Q. So if someone were reading a children's file from back  
2 in the 1970s, early 1980s, they might read it and  
3 perhaps think about the child in terms of being  
4 a problem child.

5 A. Unfortunately, that could be the case, yes.

6 Q. Can you help us at all with what happened to records  
7 when a child left Quarriers?

8 A. No. I don't know what happened to the records at all.  
9 I just can't -- I mean, in the two years I was there,  
10 there wasn't too many people leaving or not too much  
11 change. But as far as the cottages were concerned,  
12 whether they handed those records on to the head office  
13 or not, I don't know.

14 Q. Do you know anything about where files that were  
15 finished with were stored in Quarriers?

16 A. I was under the impression that they were kept in  
17 a room. Now, whether it was Mr Dunbar's room or not,  
18 I don't know, but down at a particular section in  
19 Holmlea, which was the head office. Whether that's true  
20 or not, I don't know. Maybe somebody else will be able  
21 to help you there.

22 Q. At page 6871 in your statement, paragraph 142, you have  
23 indicated that you've been asked by Quarriers in the  
24 past as to whether you can shed any light on the  
25 location of old records.

1 A. Yes. I've tried to help out and I did hear at one time  
2 that records were being kept in cottage 14, and also in  
3 the old what used to be the fire station, that some  
4 records were maybe kept there as well. But where they  
5 were kept, I don't know.

6 Q. I'm going to move on and ask you about some of your  
7 direct experiences with cottage parents and cottages for  
8 which you were responsible. At page 6854, otherwise  
9 page 18, paragraph 70, you tell us which six cottages  
10 you were responsible for as part of your remit as  
11 a residential social worker.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Can you confirm the cottages?

14 A. Yes, it was Anne Craig's cottage, cottage 3; Mr and  
15 Mrs Durrant's cottages, which was cottage 25; Mr and  
16 Mrs **QFO/QJK** cottage, which was cottage 14; Mr and  
17 Mrs **QLQ/QLR** cottage 26; Anne Howard, cottage 29; and  
18 Mr and Mrs **QFG/QFH** cottage 38; Anne Kerr,  
19 cottage something.

20 Q. You tell us cottage 40.

21 A. That'll be correct.

22 Q. You said cottage 25 for Mr and Mrs Durrant. Is that  
23 correct? In the statement it says 25.

24 A. No, it's cottage ... Cottage 5 were the Durrants. Can  
25 you just give me a second, please, to check this?



1 (Pause)

2 I can't see it here. I'm sure it's cottage 5  
3 though.

4 Q. It's certainly cottage 5 that you've --

5 A. Yes, cottage 5.

6 Q. -- told us before?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. In the context of telling us about your cottages, you  
9 did say that:

10 "I did have problem cottages in my caseload."

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Can you explain what you mean by a reference to  
13 a problem cottage?

14 A. A problem cottage was where I was having problems with  
15 the cottage parents or cottage staff. Not the children:  
16 the cottage parents.

17 Q. The concept of a problem cottage, was that just your  
18 idea or was it discussed at all or talked about within  
19 the social work department?

20 A. We never talked about it as such, but a problem cottage,  
21 as far as I was concerned, was one where I could not get  
22 through to the cottage parents, that they may be -- they  
23 should be maybe changing their ways of doing things and  
24 having problems discussing things with them.

25 Q. If we move to page 6877 in your statement, otherwise

1 page 41, to paragraph 169, you tell us about essentially  
2 there being different types of cottage parents. You  
3 explain that there were different generations of cottage  
4 parents.

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Can you tell us more about this?

7 A. I found that the younger cottage parents appeared to be  
8 more understanding, more empathetic towards the  
9 children, and more understanding as to the problems that  
10 they had, whereas the older cottage parents that I was  
11 confronted with were not just as understanding and were  
12 set in their ways, in ways which I didn't think  
13 necessarily were the correct ways.

14 Q. Can you perhaps give us some examples of the ways in  
15 which the older --

16 A. One example would be Mr and Mrs Durrant, who insisted  
17 that the children were in bed very early in the evening.  
18 They had problems with a couple of the children and  
19 I believed this was because those children were older  
20 children and they were getting put to bed at 8 and 9 at  
21 night. I tried to discuss with the Durrants that maybe  
22 it would be something worthwhile considering allowing  
23 the boys -- it was boys on this occasions -- for the  
24 boys to stay up later at night and it may help with the  
25 problems. But that only came to fruition after I'd

1 spoken to Mr Mortimer because I was concerned about this  
2 and I went to Mr Mortimer and stated that -- just what  
3 I've said.

4 He said, "No, you go back and tell Mr and  
5 Mrs Durrant, I want the boys to be up later". Now, had  
6 I not gone to Mr Mortimer, I'm sure that I would have  
7 got nowhere with Mr and Mrs Durrant, this is just  
8 because Mr Mortimer said it, so they did it and the boys  
9 then were kept up later.

10 Q. Am I correct in my understanding that house parents  
11 reported and were accountable to Joe Mortimer?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. They didn't report or were accountable to the in-house  
14 social workers?

15 A. No, no, not at all.

16 Q. So from what you're describing, you had problems  
17 sometimes with asserting any authority in relation to  
18 the house parents and therefore you had to consult  
19 Joe Mortimer?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. At page 6878, over the page, at paragraph 171, you tell  
22 us a little about training for cottage parents --

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. -- and that it is your memory that cottage parents  
25 didn't receive any training.

1 A. That's correct. I can't remember any of them having  
2 training. I was reminded, though, that Mr Dunbar and,  
3 I believe, Anne Craig went to college to get  
4 a certificate. But I can't remember any other cottage  
5 parent saying, "I'm away to training".

6 Q. So at the time you weren't aware of there being  
7 a particular system or structure whereby --

8 A. I don't remember any in-house training at all.

9 Q. I'm now going to ask you about experiences you've had in  
10 respect of certain cottages. I'm going to take you,  
11 firstly, to an issue which I think you've already  
12 indicated. You discuss it at 6879, page 43 of your  
13 statement. We see there at paragraph 176, and as you've  
14 explained, if you encountered resistance from cottage  
15 parents, and sometimes you say you did, you would go to  
16 Joe Mortimer.

17 A. Yes. Occasionally I would go to Mr Craigmile first of  
18 all as he was my senior, my direct boss.

19 Q. In paragraph 177 you observe that:

20 "From [your] experience, [you] felt that if an  
21 cottage parent stood their ground, they got their own  
22 way. They were very autonomous. How particular cottage  
23 parents were treated by the management depend a lot on  
24 how strong they were."

25 A. Yes, yes.

1 Q. And that was your experience?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. I'm going to ask you now about your experiences with  
4 cottage 14. You tell us about that starting at  
5 page 6882, otherwise page 46. And you've quite a lot to  
6 tell us about cottage 14 over the next few pages.

7 Firstly, who were the house parents in cottage 14?

8 A. Mr and Mrs QFO/QJK QFO/QJK.

9 Q. You tell us that another residential social worker,  
10 Tony McNulty, had had that cottage withdrawn from him.

11 A. Yes. When I arrived back from training, I was allocated  
12 certain cottages and one was cottage 14, and  
13 Tony McNulty, he was a social worker in there until  
14 I arrived, and then he was withdrawn and I was given the  
15 cottage.

16 Q. Do you know anything about why the cottage was withdrawn  
17 from your colleague?

18 A. I got the impression from Tony that he was having  
19 problems getting through to Mr and Mrs QFO/QJK about  
20 certain things and that he was maybe raising too many  
21 issues with Alf Craigmile and Mr Mortimer and was  
22 getting nowhere, and I may be totally wrong here, but  
23 I got the impression that maybe I was put into the  
24 cottage as a rookie, thinking that he's new and maybe  
25 he'll have a different approach and maybe they won't

- 1           have the same problems.
- 2       Q.   Is there any sense when you say a rookie, that they  
3           might have thought you were rather naive and a soft  
4           touch?
- 5       A.   Yes, that's maybe the word I should have used.
- 6       Q.   That you might have been less challenging?
- 7       A.   Yes.
- 8       Q.   You tell us at paragraph 192 that the **QFO/QJK** had  
9           a particular approach to the children, and you thought  
10          that they showed a completely lack of sympathy?
- 11      A.   Yes.
- 12      Q.   And they were also cottage parents who had a resistance  
13          to all social workers?
- 14      A.   Yes.
- 15      Q.   Further down at paragraph 194, you tell us about an  
16          occasion on which you were in cottage 14 at teatime.
- 17      A.   Yes.
- 18      Q.   Can you tell us what the arrangements were for the  
19          children having their tea?
- 20      A.   Yes.  Before meals, the children, from the youngest to  
21          the oldest, had all to stand against a wall with their  
22          back to the wall and they had to hold their hands out so  
23          that Mr and Mrs **QFO/QJK** could examine that their hands  
24          were clean.  And it was a case of very abrupt  
25          instructions, "Hands", and the child was expected to

1 life up their hands. Then, "Over", so they had to turn  
2 their hands over the other way so they could see the  
3 other way.

4 After that examination, they were marched more or  
5 less into the dining room where they stood at their  
6 table, their seat, and then they were told to sit, and  
7 then they were told to pray and then they were told to  
8 eat.

9 Q. And you were there and you observed that yourself?

10 A. I observed that.

11 Q. You also indicate that the children had to wear aprons?

12 A. Yes, they had to wear aprons. Now, I saw this once.

13 I don't know -- I mean, I'm assuming since I saw it  
14 once, it happened every other time, the same as all the  
15 other behaviours happened every time.

16 Q. Even the older children had to wear aprons?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And you formed the view that it was all totally  
19 humiliating for the children, as you say in your  
20 statement?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. You say that you thought the way the children were being  
23 treated was strange and you had a word with the  
24 house father.

25 A. Yes. I was in the cottage one evening just before

1           teatime and there was an axe on the table, and I asked  
2           him what this was for, and he told me that it was to  
3           slam down on the table next to this young man. I said,  
4           "What do you mean?" He said, "If he eats the way he ate  
5           last night, that's going into his hand", you know.

6           I said, "You must be joking", and he said no and  
7           showed me another hatchet mark on the table. That's  
8           proof that he had done it before and he was quite proud  
9           of himself.

10          Q. At the time, did you form a view, whether the  
11          house father intended to hit the child --

12          A. No, he did not -- I'm sure he did not intend to hit the  
13          child.

14          Q. But --

15          A. It's just the way he spoke.

16          Q. But your view was he did intend and in fact had shown  
17          you where he slammed the axe --

18          A. Into the table.

19          Q. -- into the table in order to --

20          A. Frighten the person so that he would eat properly or do  
21          whatever it was he wanted him to do.

22          Q. And what did you do after you heard about the axe?

23          A. I spoke to -- we had a psychologist who was attached to  
24          Quarriers -- I don't know whether she was full-time or  
25          not -- Mrs Jean Morris. I spoke to her about it. Her



1 response was: och, that's just the way **QFO** is, that's  
2 just the way he speaks. I couldn't understand this at  
3 all. In hindsight, I wish I'd done something else about  
4 it, but I didn't. It's one of my regrets.

5 Q. In your statement at paragraph 197, you tell us that you  
6 weren't confident enough to challenge her because she  
7 was a qualified clinical psychologist.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. But you say that you went to see Joe Mortimer?

10 A. Yes. The response again was just very similar. Very  
11 similar, just: that's just **QFO** that's **QFO** and **QJK**.

12 Q. So there was a degree of acceptance of that behaviour  
13 because that just happened to be how the house parent  
14 acted?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. You also tell us about a few years ago, you met a man  
17 who been a child in that cottage --

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. -- when you were there.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And --

22 A. I related that story to him. He was the one that  
23 **QFO** was threatening him with an axe, it was him.  
24 After I finished relating the story to him, he informed  
25 me that he had forgotten about that, but it made the

1           hairs on the back of his neck stand up because it  
2           reminded him of it and he did remember it. Then he went  
3           on to tell me other things that happened to him in the  
4           QFO/QJK cottage.

5           Q. What did he tell you?

6           A. The main thing that he told -- one of the main things he  
7           said was that at Christmastime he was the only person in  
8           the cottage that did not go either to the parents or  
9           befrienders or go home for Christmas and that the  
10          QFO/QJK they had their own family for Christmas, and  
11          that he, [REDACTED] was kept in a playroom all during  
12          Christmas while the QFO/QJK and their family were  
13          having their Christmas meal, and he was there for the  
14          whole of the Christmas period in the playroom on his  
15          own.

16          Q. So he was excluded from the family celebrations?

17          A. Totally excluded, yes.

18          Q. This man also told you, you say, about certain  
19          experiences in the cottage in respect of bed-wetting.

20          A. Bed-wetting, yes. He was a bed-wetter and if he wet the  
21          bed, he had to wrap the bedclothes round his head and  
22          walk round the cottage. But he, interestingly enough,  
23          he said that any of the behaviours or anything that  
24          happened to him, he just thought that was normal, that  
25          this was happening to every other child in every other

1 cottage. Obviously, he's not going to go out and boast  
2 to somebody "I wet the bed last night and I had to do  
3 this", therefore he didn't know that this wasn't  
4 happening.

5 Q. You tell us that this person didn't report any of these  
6 things as a child.

7 A. No.

8 Q. And the reason for that was he just accepted it and  
9 thought it was normal?

10 A. That's right.

11 Q. You tell us, and we'll move on to cottage 26, which was  
12 the **QLQ/QLR** cottage in relation to children who had  
13 epilepsy. You then, in the context of cottage 14, at  
14 paragraph 202, tell us about a situation where a child  
15 who did have epilepsy was thought to be fit enough to be  
16 transferred to cottage 14.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. What happened on that occasion?

19 A. It was decided that he would maybe get on better with --  
20 this young man with epilepsy, he was slightly more able  
21 than others and they felt he could maybe fit in better  
22 in a normal cottage, to use that term. And they chose  
23 the **QFO/QJK** I was there when the transfer was made.  
24 Mr **QLQ** was there, Mr and Mrs **QFO/QJK** were there, as  
25 was the young boy.

1 [REDACTED] was the boy's name, I've just remembered  
2 that. Mr [REDACTED] QFO said to [REDACTED], "Nobody takes fits  
3 in my house. You won't have any fits in my house",  
4 which I thought was just absolutely ludicrous.

5 Q. What did you say to that?

6 A. I can't remember. I'm sure I must have said something,  
7 but the fact that the transfer went ahead and I'm sure  
8 it just went over their heads.

9 Q. You say that after he said that, after the meeting, you  
10 challenged [REDACTED] QFO and that you told him that he  
11 couldn't stop someone having a fit?

12 A. Correct, correct.

13 Q. And he just said, "He certainly won't be having fits in  
14 here".

15 A. That's right, so it just went over his head. The young  
16 boy did actually go into the cottage and I'm sure he  
17 would have his fits.

18 LADY SMITH: Do you know if he had had any training on how  
19 to handle the child if he did have an epileptic fit?

20 A. Definitely not.

21 LADY SMITH: He hadn't had any training?

22 A. No training.

23 LADY SMITH: But isn't it important to understand how to  
24 help a child who's having a fit?

25 A. Of course.

1 LADY SMITH: Because the child can hurt themselves quite  
2 badly and need particular help and reassurance  
3 afterwards.

4 A. Yes.

5 LADY SMITH: Ms Rattray.

6 MS RATTRAY: Indeed, on that subject, you tell us elsewhere  
7 in your statement that although you were working with  
8 children with epilepsy, you had no training on the  
9 matter.

10 A. I had no training either.

11 Q. And when you moved to be the leisure officer working  
12 with adults with epilepsy, you were not provided with  
13 training either?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. And you tell us the first time you were provided with  
16 training was when you became the manager in the respite  
17 unit?

18 A. That's correct, yes.

19 Q. There's another occasion that you tell us about in  
20 relation to cottage 14, when a girl came in late for tea  
21 one night because she'd been saying goodbye to  
22 a boyfriend at the bus stop.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. And you were there when --

25 A. When the girl came into the cottage, yes.

- 1 Q. And Mr **QFO** said something to her?
- 2 A. He took her into the office and in front of myself said  
3 to her that -- I can't remember whether it was, if  
4 you're late or ... whatever. But he said that, "If you  
5 come in like this again, late, or if you see that boy  
6 again, I am going to have that sown up", and he pointed  
7 to between her legs.
- 8 Q. What was your response to that?
- 9 A. I didn't say anything while the girl was there, but  
10 I did say to **QFO** afterwards, "You can't say that", but  
11 he just ...
- 12 Q. And there was another occasion which I think you say you  
13 didn't witness directly yourself but you were told  
14 immediately after of the event, involving a child in  
15 cottage 14 and the education liaison officer, who you  
16 tell us is Judy Cochrane. Can you tell us about that  
17 incident?
- 18 A. This was one of the -- in fact, I think he was the  
19 oldest boy in the cottage. Judy, as the education  
20 liaison officer, felt that he had a lot of potential.  
21 Now, part of her role was to have wee classes in the  
22 evenings for the pupils. She felt that this young man,  
23 I can't remember his name -- she invited him home to her  
24 house to do extra training, extra teaching. And her  
25 husband was there and when the young man appeared on the

1 scene, he was quite distressed, I believe, and when  
2 asked what was distressing him, he said that Mr QFO  
3 said that the only reason he was going to see  
4 Mrs Cochrane was for sex. He didn't use that term;  
5 he was more crude than that.

6 Q. Yes, you tell us that in your statement, and you say  
7 that QFO had told this young man that he was  
8 going to get his extra tuition to "get your hole".

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And you tell us that Judy Cochrane contacted you on that  
11 evening?

12 A. She wanted to discuss it and I suggested that she go  
13 straight to Dr Minto.

14 Q. Do you know whether she did that?

15 A. I believe she went to -- it was either Dr Minto or  
16 Mr Mortimer she went to and I don't know what the  
17 result ... I don't think anything happened. I don't  
18 even know if anything was said to the QFO/QJK I doubt  
19 it.

20 Q. You have some thoughts on whether or not the management  
21 were aware of this type of behaviour in cottage 14. You  
22 tell us about that at paragraph 205.

23 A. I'm sure they must have been aware of it because  
24 Tony McNulty, the social worker prior to me, had gone  
25 complaining about it, so they knew about it. And the

1 fact that I had mentioned it to Jean Morris, I'm sure  
2 she would have discussed it with Mr Mortimer or  
3 whatever. Or maybe not, I don't know. But they  
4 certainly knew about it.

5 Q. I'm going to ask you now about certain things that  
6 happened in cottage 26, which you've told us about,  
7 which was the cottage where boys with epilepsy lived.  
8 Can you tell me about the house parents there?

9 A. The house parents there were trained. I believe they  
10 were both nurses and their speciality was epilepsy.  
11 They worked in an epilepsy unit, it was either Chalfont,  
12 or down in England anyway, and they came to Quarriers as  
13 experts and they were the only cottage parents in  
14 Quarriers who were paid as senior house parents because  
15 they had this special training. And they came in and  
16 they ran the unit in a very strict manner and a way  
17 which surprised me, as I say, given the training and  
18 what have you.

19 Q. An issue arose in relation to the manner in which  
20 children in the cottage were being punished?

21 A. Yes. They used what they referred to as the stool.  
22 This was a small stool, a normal wee stool, and they  
23 kept that on the half landing and if any of the children  
24 misbehaved at all, they were put on this stool as  
25 punishment. And if there were two children that



1 misbehaved, a seat was put into one of the shower units  
2 in the shower department (sic) to sit. I discussed this  
3 with the cottage parents, saying this is highly  
4 dangerous -- if they were on a half landing and they  
5 took a seizure, they could fall down the stairs, if  
6 nothing else. Or if a young person took a seizure in  
7 the cubicle, he crack his head against the tiles. But  
8 that fell on stony ground: that's what happened to them,  
9 that's what the punishment was.

10 It also transpired that those children could be kept  
11 on that seat for any time up to a week with only breaks  
12 for mealtimes and bedtime. So they would have no play,  
13 no other activity other than sitting on the stool.

14 Q. How did you become aware that the children were being  
15 kept on the stool for a prolonged period of time?

16 A. When I was assistant youth leader when I went in to do  
17 play activities with them, every now and again one of  
18 them would disrupt the activity and I would say, "You  
19 need to go and stand outside just now because you're  
20 disrupting things". The **QLQ/QLR** saw this was -- this  
21 boy must have done something to be put outside, so he'd  
22 be put up on to the stool. Therefore the **QLQ/QLR**  
23 maintained that I was colluding with them, but I didn't  
24 know. That was before I'd done any training, before I'd  
25 been at college or anything. Therefore it appeared that

1 I was colluding with them, which I certainly wasn't.

2 But at that time, I never said anything to them  
3 because they were the experts, whereas when I came back  
4 after I'd done my training, that's when I started  
5 raising the issue and they complained that I was just  
6 being smart, "Just because you've done my training, you  
7 think you know everything".

8 Q. You say in your statement at paragraph 218, page 6890,  
9 you went to speak to Jean Morris, the psychologist,  
10 about it.

11 A. Yes. She adopted an attitude similar to what I had in  
12 a way, to start with: they're the experts so they know  
13 what they're doing. Nothing was said to them about it  
14 at all.

15 Q. You say that you raised it on more than one occasion  
16 with your senior, Alf Craigmile.

17 A. Yes. At the same time, when I returned after I'd been  
18 at college, I was allocated cottage 26 because the  
19 social worker, a Mr Bill Dunbar -- sorry, not  
20 Bill Dunbar, Bill McKay. He had been withdrawn from  
21 that cottage, so when I went in there again, Bill McKay  
22 had said to me, "You'll get nowhere there".

23 Q. So had Bill McKay been aware of --

24 A. He had been aware of it and he had made complaints about  
25 it, but again they were seen as the experts, so just

- 1           leave it.
- 2           Q. You then tell us that it was raised again by a student  
3           who was being supervised by Ian Brodie.
- 4           A. That's correct. Ian was supervising this young lady and  
5           he in his role would allocate a couple of cottages to  
6           his students. He would put them into the cottage with  
7           specific tasks, I don't know what the tasks were, but  
8           this young girl picked up -- I mean, this stool is  
9           something that QLQ/QLR did not hide from anybody.  
10          So it's not a case of they said, "We'd better hide this  
11          stool, there's a student coming in". Therefore she  
12          witnessed, this young person, and she also discovered  
13          that the young people could be kept on the seats for  
14          lengthy periods of time.
- 15          Q. You explain in your statement that you felt you were  
16          getting nowhere in complaining about this --
- 17          A. Mm-hm.
- 18          Q. -- and then you happened to meet a person called  
19          Mike Laxton.
- 20          A. Yes. Mike Laxton was somebody that Dr Minto brought  
21          into the organisation; I'm not sure for what purpose.  
22          I was under the impression that it was just to check  
23          that everything was going fine in the organisation.  
24          I was friendly with him because he and I both had  
25          a holiday house in the Isle of Bute, so we would see

1 each other on the ferry on occasions. Because he was  
2 working and trying to see what was going on in the  
3 organisation, he'd ask me how things were and I told him  
4 on this occasion that I was getting absolutely nowhere  
5 and I explained this stool to him and he was horrified  
6 when I told him about it.

7 He said what to do is write a letter and send a copy  
8 to me, which was Mike, send a copy to Dr Minto and send  
9 a copy to Mr Mortimer. And he said, "If Dr Minto or  
10 Mr Mortimer don't do anything about it, I'll certainly  
11 do something about it". And the following day, the  
12 stool was removed -- well, within a couple of days the  
13 stool was removed.

14 Q. So this was a complaint which had been raised on  
15 repeated occasions by different people?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And nothing had been done?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. But when it was brought to the attention of someone who  
20 was outwith Quarriers, there was a response and the  
21 stool was removed?

22 A. Correct.

23 LADY SMITH: So you did actually write, as you say in your  
24 statement?

25 A. Yes, I wrote a letter and a copy was sent to the three

- 1           of them.
- 2           LADY SMITH: Are you telling me you think the removal of the  
3           stool was a response to your letter?
- 4           A. I have no doubt at all that it was a result.
- 5           MS RATTRAY: You tell us about an incident in cottage 29,  
6           which was the cottage in which girls who had epilepsy  
7           lived.
- 8           A. Yes.
- 9           Q. It was an incident that you didn't directly observe but  
10          was related to you by a member of your night staff when  
11          you were later working in the respite unit.
- 12          A. That's correct, yes.
- 13          Q. And that individual had previously been a cottage  
14          auntie --
- 15          A. That's right.
- 16          Q. -- in cottage 29?
- 17          A. Can I just say there, by the way, that in cottage 29,  
18          I said that the cottage parent was Mrs Anne Howard. It  
19          was not her that was on at that time, she had left or  
20          had moved, and it was another couple that were in by  
21          this time.
- 22          Q. Yes. You tell us the name of that couple in the  
23          statement. We can see what you've told us about that at  
24          page 6893.
- 25          A. Yes. Apparently, the cottage father had grabbed hold of

1           one of the girls by the hair and had pulled out a tuft  
2           of hair and had dragged her along and pulled out the  
3           tuft of hair, and the member of my night staff who was  
4           telling me about it was abhorred about this and went to  
5           Mr Mortimer. Mr Mortimer had said something along the  
6           lines of, no, we need more witness, we don't have any  
7           witnesses, but if it happens again, that kind of thing.  
8           But that was it.

9           I don't know if the couple were spoken to or not.

10          Q. You say that she was furious about the way --

11          A. It was just put aside, sort of thing.

12          Q. And that she said she was concerned about the way in  
13             which the children were being treated?

14          A. Yes.

15          Q. And she felt as if she wasn't being believed?

16          A. Yes.

17                 Can I maybe have a short break now?

18          MS RATTRAY: I'm wondering -- certainly. I'm almost  
19             finished --

20          A. Okay.

21          MS RATTRAY: We are due a break, but I think we could be  
22             finished in about 2 or 3 minutes.

23          LADY SMITH: Maybe, if we can carry on for a couple of  
24             minutes, we might be able to finish your evidence.  
25             Would that be all right with you? Very well.

1 MS RATTRAY: You further tell us about a situation in  
2 cottage 38 where a child was placed as an emergency  
3 placement.

4 A. Yes. As the residential social worker, I was contacted  
5 one night by Strathclyde's emergency social workers to  
6 ask if I had a place for a young boy. I don't know how  
7 old this boy was, 10, I don't know. Round about 10.  
8 And apparently, he'd been found sleeping in Central  
9 station somewhere, over a heater.

10 As one of the things that happened on a Monday  
11 meeting with all the social workers, we were informed as  
12 to what cottages in Quarriers had any empty beds and  
13 whether they were suitable for boys, girls, families,  
14 older girls, that kind of thing. I checked and we had  
15 this cottage and it was cottage 38, Mr and Mrs QFG/QFH  
16 I arranged for the social worker to bring this young boy  
17 along. The QFG/QFH were on their day off, so it was  
18 the cottage auntie that was there, and we admitted the  
19 wee boy and put him in his bed, I stayed with him for  
20 a wee while until he was settled, and then the following  
21 morning, I went along because I knew the QFG/QFH were  
22 back off their day off. So I went along just to discuss  
23 the wee boy and tell them about his background.

24 As soon as I arrived at the cottage, Mrs QFG  
25 said, "Can you see you in my room in the lounge?"

1 I went into the lounge and her opening gambit was, "How  
2 dare you bring a Catholic into this house?"

3 Q. I think you narrated that incident at some stage to  
4 William Dunbar?

5 A. Yes, I bumped into -- I think it was that day I bumped  
6 into Bill and I was telling him, I said, "I've just been  
7 in a cottage just now and was told this", and Bill said,  
8 "That will be the QFG/QFH".

9 Q. So you have indicated there was an awareness of that  
10 approach?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And I think you tell us elsewhere -- I don't need to  
13 take you to it, but for the record it's at page 6861 --  
14 that the assistant director, William Dunbar, had some  
15 involvement in supervising cottages. That the  
16 social workers were allocated cottages --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- and he had an involvement in supervising you in  
19 respect of certain cottages.

20 A. I was under the impression that Mr Dunbar, he definitely  
21 had responsibility for cottage 38, but I don't know what  
22 other cottages he had.

23 Q. A final matter to put to you, Stuart, at page 6905,  
24 where you tell us that:

25 "[You're] sure that Alf Craigmile and Joe Mortimer



1           knew what was going on in all of the cottages.  There  
2           were cottages known as good cottages and there were  
3           cottages known as not so good cottages."

4           A.  That's my terminology.

5           Q.  And you say:

6                     "If we, as social workers, were aware of that then  
7                     I'm sure that management must have known that as well."

8           A.  I'm sure, yes.

9           Q.  But notwithstanding that, at paragraph 284, further down  
10           the page, you say:

11                     "Joe Mortimer was an amazing man."

12           A.  Yes.  Amazing inasmuch as he was liked by -- I don't  
13           know anybody that didn't like him.  And when I was  
14           saying he was an amazing man it's because, as far as  
15           I was concerned, he knew the names of all the children  
16           and obviously -- well, not obviously, but he knew the  
17           name of all the staff as well.  That's what I meant by  
18           he was an a man.  He was well liked and I also think he  
19           did a lot of innovative things that he did for the  
20           children, one being he had a committee -- I can't  
21           remember what they called it now, I mentioned it in my  
22           report.  But it was a committee of children that met on  
23           a regular basis, maybe once a month, where they had the  
24           opportunity of discussing things with Mr Mortimer.

25           Q.  So would it be fair to say from what you've told us

1           about Joe Mortimer and your experiences that your view  
2           was he was well-intentioned --

3           A. Yes.

4           Q. -- in relation to the children?

5           A. Definitely.

6           Q. But perhaps his management wasn't as effective when it  
7           came to challenging certain behaviour of the  
8           house parents?

9           A. I'd have to say that, yes.

10          MS RATTRAY: My Lady, I have no further questions.

11          LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for  
12          questions of this witness?

13                 Stuart, thank you very much. Those are all the  
14          questions we have for you.

15                 Thank you both for engaging with the inquiry to  
16          provide such an extensive and detailed written statement  
17          and coming along today to talk about parts of your  
18          statement in oral evidence. It's enormously helpful to  
19          me in what I have to do here and I am now able to let  
20          you go.

21                 Before I forget, there's one thing that I want to  
22          say -- and this is not a criticism of you, so don't  
23          worry about it. In the course of Stuart's evidence, he  
24          has mentioned criticisms, particularly of Mr QFO  
25          that could be interpreted as allegations of abuse of the

1 type we have been hearing about in this inquiry. My  
2 general restriction order applies to that name, so it  
3 cannot be repeated outside the hearing room.

4 We'll now rise for the break.

5 (11.30 am)

6 (A short break)

7 (11.48 am)

8 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples.

9 MR PEOPLES: My Lady, good morning. The next witness to  
10 give oral evidence this morning is William Dunbar.

11 WILLIAM DUNBAR (sworn)

12 LADY SMITH: Is it all right if I call you Bill?

13 A. Yes.

14 LADY SMITH: Bill, I'm going to hand over to Mr Peoples now,  
15 who's across from you here (indicating), and invite  
16 Mr Peoples to tell you what's going to happen next.

17 Questions from MR PEOPLES

18 MR PEOPLES: Good morning, Bill.

19 A. Good morning.

20 Q. Just to let you know what's going to happen, you have in  
21 front of you a red folder, which is open in front of  
22 you, which contains a copy of a statement that you've  
23 already provided to the inquiry. I will be asking you  
24 today about some matters that you've dealt with in that  
25 statement and perhaps some other matters we've heard

1 evidence about.

2 You're free to use the statement. It will also come  
3 up in front of you on the screen and it's really  
4 a matter for you which you find easiest to use. You may  
5 find the statement at times easier to use than the  
6 screen, but you just use what suits you best. Do you  
7 understand?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. For the benefit of the transcript, I'll give the  
10 reference number of your statement, which is  
11 WIT.001.002.0462.

12 You don't need to worry about that, it's just for  
13 our purposes, we can work out where in your statement  
14 you may have said certain things.

15 Can I ask you at this stage to turn to the final  
16 page of your statement; that is on page 0491. Can I ask  
17 you to confirm that you've signed your statement on that  
18 page?

19 A. I have signed it.

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

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Bill, if I could begin by asking you to simply confirm

1 the year of your birth. My understanding is you were  
2 born in the year 1931.

3 A. Correct: [REDACTED]

4 Q. So you're 87 now?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Can I start with some background information to help us  
7 get some context to the questions and matters that I'm  
8 going to ask you about.

9 You have told us when you were born and what I would  
10 like to ask you at this stage is simply to tell me the  
11 period of your employment with Quarriers. My  
12 understanding from the statement you've provided is that  
13 you began your employment with Quarriers in 1962;  
14 is that correct?

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. And that you retired around the age of 65 in 1996?

17 A. Correct.

18 Q. After, I reckon, 34 years' service with the  
19 organisation; is that right?

20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. Just so that we're clear, I think you continued to have  
22 an association with Quarriers for a further period of  
23 about 10 years because you acted as what you describe as  
24 an honorary archivist.

25 A. That's correct.

1 Q. You held a number of posts during your period of  
2 employment with Quarriers and I'm just going to go  
3 through what I understand to be the various posts so  
4 that you can confirm if I've got this right.

5 Your first post was as a house parent, from  
6 September 1962, in cottage 4.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. This was after you and your wife, who's with us today,  
9 had attended a course at Langside College, is that  
10 right, in Glasgow?

11 A. That's correct.

12 Q. Was that a course to do with residential childcare?

13 A. Yes, in those days it was known as the house parents'  
14 training course.

15 Q. After you had completed this course -- and I think you  
16 tell us in your statement that it was suggested to you  
17 that you do this by -- was it Dr --

18 A. No, by Hector Munro.

19 Q. Hector Munro, sorry, who was then, I think, what would  
20 be called the superintendent.

21 A. Superintendent.

22 Q. And I'll maybe come to some of these names again so that  
23 you can help us with that, if I may.

24 So you started as a house parent in September 1962,  
25 or thereabouts, in cottage 4.

1 A. I started in September 1962.

2 Q. Yes.

3 A. We were actually relief staff. We didn't go into  
4 cottage 4 until the March of 1963.

5 Q. I see. Where were you relief staff?

6 A. We were in Quarriers, but we were in staff  
7 accommodation.

8 Q. Right.

9 A. We covered house parents' days off and their holidays.

10 Q. I see. So in that period, you would simply be standing  
11 in for the regular house parents --

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. -- in various cottages --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- as relief staff.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. But in March 1963, you tell us that you were allocated  
18 your own cottage, cottage 4; is that correct?

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. And you took that over from whom, do you know?

21 A. Miss Sidaway, who was the house mother there; she left.

22 Q. I see. Then I think you tell us in your statement that,  
23 some time in 1963, as well as being a house parent, you  
24 took on a part-time childcare officer role?

25 A. That's correct. House fathers had secondary jobs in the

1 village. If they were tradesman, they were attached to  
2 the trades department. Because I was clerical, I was  
3 working in the office, and Hector Munro -- one or two of  
4 the children that had been boarded out hadn't been  
5 visited and he asked me if I would do that and that's  
6 really the start of taking on the childcare officer ...

7 Q. So at that time, after discussions with Hector Munro,  
8 you were working in the office at Quarriers; is that at  
9 Holmlea?

10 A. Holmlea.

11 Q. It was suggested or at least it was discussed that you  
12 would carry out some duties in relation to boarded-out  
13 children?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. When you say boarded-out children, these were children,  
16 as I understand it, that would have been in the care of  
17 Quarriers but had subsequently been boarded out to  
18 families, foster families, as we call them; is that  
19 correct?

20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. And would these children at the time, in the early  
22 sixties, have been children who had been placed with  
23 Quarriers by the local authority or children who were  
24 placed under private arrangements or both?

25 A. They were voluntary admissions, children that were



1 placed voluntarily by a relative or parent. Most of  
2 them were, unfortunately, children of unmarried mothers.

3 Q. And those children --

4 A. Actually, they were placed in the foster homes by  
5 Mr McNeill, who was the children's officer for Renfrew  
6 county. Dr Davidson and Mr McNeill had come to some  
7 arrangement and once Mr McNeill placed them, Quarriers  
8 took it on, and because there was a lack of staff at  
9 that time, I was asked to do it because of the  
10 housekeeping training course.

11 Q. So one of your tasks then, apart from being in the  
12 office, at that time, and also living in cottage 4 as  
13 a house parent with your wife, one of your tasks was to  
14 go out, is it, to see these homes where these children  
15 were boarded out?

16 A. That's correct.

17 Q. And see the home and talk to the children?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Then you tell us that in 1964, you became a full-time  
20 childcare officer, as I think the title was then known,  
21 for Quarriers; is that right?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. And did that involve doing the same thing, but on  
24 a full-time basis?

25 A. Yes. It took on -- apart from visiting the boarded-out

1 children, I also visited homes where recommendations or  
2 people had applied for children to be admitted.

3 Q. So if Quarriers received an application for admission  
4 by -- would these be people who wanted to place  
5 privately?

6 A. No. Unfortunately, although the Children's Act came  
7 into being in 1948, children's departments, local  
8 authorities, took an awful long time to get themselves  
9 established. When I started at Quarriers in 1962,  
10 Quarriers had involvement with Glasgow; Renfrew county,  
11 Paisley, Greenock, Port Glasgow, they all had their  
12 individual social work departments and they didn't come  
13 together.

14 So a child being admitted -- to take an example, an  
15 unmarried mother, her parents in the sixties -- she had  
16 committed an unpardonable sin and her parents would send  
17 her away, telling the neighbours she was staying with  
18 her granny.

19 She'd have the child. If she was a Greenock girl,  
20 she would maybe go into Glasgow and she would have the  
21 child there. She would go to the Children's Department  
22 in Glasgow and they would tell here, "You're from  
23 Greenock, it's their responsibility". She would go to  
24 Greenock and Greenock would say, "The child was born in  
25 Glasgow, so it's their responsibility". So this young

1 girl with a child was in limbo and the voluntaries came  
2 in and helped out here. So we had quite a number of  
3 children coming in under that -- and then we would take  
4 it to the local authority to see if they would take on  
5 the financials.

6 Q. They would come in in the way you described, not by some  
7 formal arrangement with the local authority but after  
8 they were admitted, you'd seek, from the local  
9 authority, a financial contribution --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- for such children?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Some of those children that were admitted would be  
14 boarded out after they were admitted to Quarriers, but  
15 some would stay in Quarriers in the village?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And one of your tasks as a childcare officer was not  
18 only to visit children who had been boarded out but to  
19 visit the homes of children who were applying for  
20 admission or whose parents --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- or parent was applying for admission?

23 A. Yes, relatives.

24 Q. And you would check the background situation?

25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. And --
- 2 A. One of those requests would come through the RSSPCC, the  
3 royal society, mainly the women's visitors section, who  
4 visited homes, and they would be concerned about the  
5 children. And they would ask us if we would help them  
6 out there --
- 7 Q. So if they --
- 8 A. -- and then discuss with the local authority.
- 9 Q. So effectively, in many cases, with the support of the  
10 RSSPCC, persons who wanted a child placed in care,  
11 perhaps because they were a single mother, would get  
12 that support, the RSSPCC would be in touch with  
13 Quarriers and support the application, you would check  
14 out some matters connected to the application and, if  
15 everything was in order, the child would be admitted.  
16 Is that the way it was done?
- 17 A. That's correct.
- 18 Q. But in some cases you would also get the local  
19 authority, who had taken a child into their care, asking  
20 Quarriers directly to look after that child on behalf of  
21 the local authority.
- 22 A. That's correct.
- 23 Q. So in 1964 your childcare officer role involved you  
24 doing these sort of things; is that correct?
- 25 A. That's correct.

1 Q. So you had something to do with admissions but also  
2 something to do with visiting children who had been  
3 boarded out?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. I think you tell us in your statement that there came  
6 a time in 1966 when you were promoted to the position of  
7 senior childcare officer, which subsequently, after the  
8 Social Work (Scotland) Act 1968, would have been  
9 a senior social worker role; is that right?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. Can you just tell me, during that period, what  
12 responsibilities you had as a senior childcare officer  
13 and latterly a senior social worker?

14 A. By this time in 1966, between 1964 and for the first  
15 18 months, when Hector Munro retired, Roy Holman came in  
16 as superintendent, but he was only with us for  
17 18 months. It was during that time that he formed the  
18 childcare department and the staff had increased because  
19 we had a female social worker, a childcare officer as  
20 well, and another house father who was part-time  
21 childcare.

22 Then when we changed, the department changed to  
23 social work, we still had a female social worker and  
24 another male social worker --

25 Q. So --

- 1 A. -- so I just had a little team or another two.
- 2 Q. So when you became a part-time childcare officer in  
3 1963, as well as being a house parent, who was the  
4 superintendent then? Was it Roy Holman?
- 5 A. Hector Munro in 1963.
- 6 Q. And would Roy Holman come in in 1964?
- 7 A. Yes, he came in about the middle of 1964.
- 8 Q. When you were already acting as a part-time childcare  
9 officer?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. And he stayed for, you think, 18 months?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. And he was succeeded by Joe Mortimer as superintendent  
14 in 1965?
- 15 A. Yes, deputy director, superintendent.
- 16 Q. I think he was called superintendent maybe in those  
17 days, although I know his title changed over the years;  
18 is that correct?
- 19 A. That's correct.
- 20 Q. So far as Roy Holman's legacy is concerned, he was there  
21 a short time, but am I right in thinking, as you say --  
22 you've just told us that he effectively established what  
23 might be termed a childcare department within Quarriers,  
24 of which you were a member?
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And he recruited more people as childcare officers or  
2 child welfare officers --

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. -- as employees of Quarriers?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Is this to do the sort of things you were doing?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And that once he had established this team, which  
9 consisted of yourself and I think you said another, is  
10 it male childcare officer and a female childcare  
11 officer --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- at some point you became the senior childcare officer  
14 in the team?

15 A. Yes, that's correct.

16 Q. Was one of the other childcare officers at that time  
17 Margaret Orr?

18 A. Marjorie Ross.

19 Q. Did Margaret Orr at some point join the team?

20 A. She came later.

21 Q. Perhaps one other thing that I could maybe take about  
22 Roy Holman: he wasn't there very long; do you know why  
23 he was only there for such a short time?

24 A. Yes. Unfortunately, his youngest son at that time was  
25 quite ill and was in hospital in London, so his wife was

1 down there as well. She was also expecting at that  
2 time. He worked at Shelley Oakes at Croydon when he  
3 came to us, and at the end of that 18 months with us,  
4 a job came up at Croydon that he never thought was going  
5 to happen, so he went back down there.

6 Q. So it was family reasons really that he left?

7 A. Family reasons, yes.

8 Q. In the short time he was there, as you say, you  
9 established a childcare department, if you like?

10 A. Yes. He was really the new broom coming into Quarriers  
11 at that time.

12 Q. Because Hector Munro, his predecessor, had been  
13 superintendent for a very long time; is that correct?

14 A. For 25 years.

15 Q. And was perhaps an old broom then in --

16 A. Well ...

17 Q. Who had seen a lot of Quarriers from, well, if it was  
18 25 years --

19 A. He came in 1939.

20 Q. So he had seen the war years and the post-war --

21 A. Through the war years. And the administration staff at  
22 that time was the general director -- no, it wasn't the  
23 general director, it was the chairman, Dr Kelly.

24 Hector Munro was the superintendent and David Easton was  
25 the secretary and that was it.



- 1 Q. These were the main players at Quarriers in the early  
2 days?
- 3 A. Yes, and Hector Munro took you through the war years:  
4 clothing coupons, ration books, blackouts, everything  
5 and there were maybe 1,000 children there.
- 6 Q. Did they take in evacuees as well as children that were  
7 needing care for other reasons? Did Quarriers do that  
8 during the war?
- 9 A. No, no. It was mainly children in care.
- 10 Q. You tell us about Dr James Kelly, who was the chairman  
11 at one point of Quarriers. I think he had been the  
12 chairman in the 1930s, before the war, and continued  
13 in that post for some time. Can you remember when he  
14 gave up office as chair?
- 15 A. 1950s. 1956/1957. Because when he stepped down,  
16 Dr Davidson became the general director.
- 17 Q. In place of?
- 18 A. Dr Kelly, who was the chairman.
- 19 Q. Okay. So Dr Kelly, who had been the chairman, was  
20 replaced by Dr Davidson, who was titled the general  
21 director?
- 22 A. That's correct.
- 23 Q. And Dr Davidson, as we understand, had a medical  
24 background?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. And he had been previously a medical officer at  
2 Quarriers?
- 3 A. He was, yes.
- 4 Q. But he took over from Dr Kelly --
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. -- in overall charge as general director?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. And he was assisted by the superintendent, who was then  
9 Hector Munro?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Until he was succeeded by Roy Holman?
- 12 A. Holman.
- 13 Q. Just to take matters forward, so we understand the  
14 changes that happened, Joe Mortimer was superintendent  
15 from 1965 and am I right in thinking that he stayed with  
16 Quarriers until about 1991 when he retired?
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. And during that period, from 1965 to 1991, I think his  
19 job title underwent various changes. I think at some  
20 point he became -- was it in 1974 or thereabouts, he  
21 became what was known as the director of childcare?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. And perhaps after that he had another title, was that an  
24 assistant general director?
- 25 A. That's correct.

1 Q. At the date he retired, what would he be known as? In  
2 1991, what was his title?

3 A. Assistant to the general director under Dr Minto.

4 Q. Yes. And Dr Minto succeeded Dr Davidson in about 1974?

5 A. Correct, yes.

6 Q. And Dr Minto's background was in education?

7 A. Correct, yes.

8 Q. He'd worked in homes in India?

9 A. He had been principal at the Dr Graham's Homes in  
10 Kalimpong, which was modelled on Quarriers Homes. They  
11 had the same cottages and things like that. Dr Graham  
12 had a concern for the Anglo-Indian children, the  
13 children of the tea planters, and he -- when he came on  
14 leave, he visited Quarriers, saw what it was like, and  
15 went back to Kalimpong and built a village there.

16 Q. Dr Minto, he arrived in 1974, and when did he depart?  
17 Just so we've got a date approximately.

18 A. It was through ill health.

19 Q. Was he still there when Joe Mortimer retired?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Was he there when you retired?

22 A. No, no, no. I'd gone through another couple of  
23 directors since then.

24 Q. We don't need to know the exact date, but if he was  
25 still there in 1991 when Joe Mortimer left --

- 1 A. So mid-1990s.
- 2 Q. He left and was succeeded by who?
- 3 A. John Ray.
- 4 Q. Was that a short period of succession?
- 5 A. Very short.
- 6 Q. Had Mr Ray come from Barnardo's?
- 7 A. That's correct.
- 8 Q. Had he been in Barnardo's for quite a long time before?
- 9 A. Yes, that's right.
- 10 Q. He didn't stay very long?
- 11 A. No.
- 12 Q. Was he there just the early 1990s?
- 13 A. No, he was after Joe Mortimer.
- 14 Q. So -- don't worry exactly. On other successors to
- 15 Joe Mortimer, I think after that for a period from maybe
- 16 about 1992 to 2000, the chief executive, as he may have
- 17 been known then, was Gerald Lee?
- 18 A. Correct.
- 19 Q. And he was assisted by a director of children and
- 20 families or childcare, who was called Phil Robinson --
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. -- for about eight years until Gerald Lee left Quarriers
- 23 in 2000? Did you know about that?
- 24 A. Yes, having lived in the village.
- 25 Q. And you were still doing your work as an archivist?

1 A. That's correct.

2 Q. So you'd have direct dealings with Gerald Lee and indeed  
3 Phil Robinson?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. As we understand it, Phil Robinson took over as  
6 chief executive in about 2000 --

7 A. Uh-huh.

8 Q. -- and stayed maybe until 2010.

9 A. Yes, roughly about then.

10 Q. So does that kind of --

11 A. By that time I was out of the picture altogether.

12 Q. Yes. I think latterly, was there a sort of board of  
13 trustees that were in overall -- had overall  
14 responsibility?

15 A. There was a council of management.

16 Q. Yes.

17 A. And which the general director was responsible to?

18 Q. If I could go back to Roy Holman briefly. He  
19 introduced, you tell us, effectively the childcare  
20 department, and did that eventually become what we've  
21 heard about in this inquiry as an in-house social work  
22 department in the 1970s?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. I'll maybe ask you a bit about that in due course.

25 Roy Holman, apart from introducing the childcare

1 department, you tell us in your statement did something  
2 else which was quite significant. Was he the person who  
3 removed the tawse from cottages?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. So he didn't want cottage parents to have a tawse?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Which presumably until then was used as a form of  
8 punishment.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Was there a particular reason why Roy Holman took this  
11 step when he did?

12 A. I can't really say. He just felt that -- yes, because  
13 I think he felt that the belt was always used in anger.  
14 And if a house parent wanted to use a belt, they could  
15 come and get it from him, but nobody turned up.

16 Q. So it would give them time to cool down if they were  
17 angry without just reaching for the belt in the  
18 cottage --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- and they'd have to go and get it from him --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- and he could perhaps discuss it with them?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. So that was his thinking perhaps?

25 A. I think that was his thinking.

1 Q. But he didn't, I take it, at that stage place any ban on  
2 what I'd call corporal punishment?

3 A. No.

4 Q. It was just removal of the belt?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. When Joe Mortimer took over as superintendent in 1965,  
7 he was working then under Dr Davidson; is that right?

8 A. To start with, yes.

9 Q. And in 1974 from then on with Dr Minto?

10 A. Dr Minto.

11 Q. Going back to your career with Quarriers then, if  
12 I could, you told us that you were a senior childcare  
13 officer and, no doubt, part of a team from 1966 through  
14 to 1969, I think it was.

15 A. Uh-huh.

16 Q. At that point you tell us in your statement you became  
17 the assistant director of childcare; is that right?

18 A. By that time, George Gill had also come in to take over  
19 the social work department. He was also a senior  
20 social worker and he developed the department. I'd gone  
21 to university in 1968/1969 and on coming back from that,  
22 my main responsibility then was training and the  
23 development of intermediate treatment. And George took  
24 on the social work department and developed that with  
25 various other social workers.

- 1 Q. So he effectively was the head of what became an  
2 in-house social work department --
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. -- which was the successor to the childcare  
5 department --
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. -- that Roy Holman had established --
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. -- in which you had been a member, but you did your  
10 training, you said, at Glasgow University?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. I think in 1968/1969 you were attending  
13 Glasgow University to study for, I think you tell us in  
14 your statement, a diploma in social work administration  
15 and a senior certificate in residential care.
- 16 A. That went along with it.
- 17 Q. So did you take that action to change direction, if you  
18 like, in terms of your responsibilities within Quarriers  
19 to be involved in more of an administrative role,  
20 involving matters including training?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. Was that part of the thinking?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. And were you asked to do that, to attend this course, or  
25 was it something you wanted to do?



- 1 A. I wanted to do.
- 2 Q. But you were given the opportunity to do that?
- 3 A. That's correct.
- 4 Q. Was that a full-time course?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. So you're away from Quarriers during that period?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. But still living in cottage 4?
- 9 A. Yes, except when I was on placements.
- 10 Q. Yes. I think you tell us you would have done some
- 11 placements as part of your course.
- 12 Can I just ask you, latterly, before you became the
- 13 assistant director of childcare, after you had attended
- 14 Glasgow University, before that you were termed a senior
- 15 social worker, because I think the terminology changed
- 16 because of the 1968 Act.
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. At that stage did you have a social work qualification
- 19 as such?
- 20 A. No, just the residential course from Langside.
- 21 Q. So you weren't what would be termed a qualified
- 22 social worker at that time?
- 23 A. No, no.
- 24 Q. It was a more specific course you had done in
- 25 residential childcare?

- 1 A. Yes, but it included social work.
- 2 Q. Yes, you'd have aspects of what we would now term  
3 social work?
- 4 A. Yes, aye.
- 5 Q. I'll come back to your role as an assistant director of  
6 childcare and training if I may, but just to follow the  
7 progression of employment with Quarriers, you tell us,  
8 I think in your statement, that you were assistant  
9 director of childcare from about 1969 until about 1980  
10 when you became what you term the assistant director;  
11 is that right?
- 12 A. Yes, that's when the village -- Quarriers was changing.  
13 There was a drop in the childcare population. The whole  
14 village was changing. Dr Minto and Viscount Muirshiel  
15 at that time had -- we could have just let the last  
16 child be discharged and shut up shop, but they decided  
17 that they wanted to create a new village and into that  
18 would be care of elderly, so different branches of ...
- 19 So the assistant directors -- there was three of us,  
20 Alf Craigmile, Irene Carson and myself -- had set areas  
21 of care that we looked after.
- 22 Q. Because I think we have some knowledge of maybe why this  
23 state of affairs came about. I think, to put it very  
24 briefly, during the period that you were assistant  
25 director of childcare -- and I think your director was

- 1           then Joe Mortimer; is that right?
- 2       A.   Yes.
- 3       Q.   During that period from 1969 to 1980, there was
- 4           a gradual decrease in the number of children being
- 5           placed with Quarriers; is that correct?
- 6       A.   That's correct.
- 7       Q.   And did that become more acute after the reorganisation
- 8           of local government in 1965 when Strathclyde Regional
- 9           Council was created; do you recall that?
- 10      A.   Into the 80s, the in thing was care in the community,
- 11       and so local authorities were concentrating on keeping
- 12       children at home as far as possible or in the
- 13       communities.  So there was a direct drop in the
- 14       childcare population of Quarriers and other
- 15       organisations.
- 16      Q.   Insofar as they weren't able to keep them at home in the
- 17       community, was the preferred policy at that time to put
- 18       them in foster homes or, if at all possible, to have
- 19       them adopted if there was no prospect of going back to
- 20       their own homes?  Was that part of the prevailing local
- 21       government --
- 22      A.   That would be the local authority.
- 23      Q.   Yes.  Is that something you're aware of at the time,
- 24       that they had a preference for fostering, adoption --
- 25      A.   Yes.

1 Q. And I think latterly there were campaigns indeed in the  
2 late 1970s, I think we've heard some evidence about  
3 that --

4 A. Yes, about the fostering campaign.

5 Q. -- to take children out of places like Quarriers and put  
6 them into foster placements or indeed have them placed  
7 for adoption?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And that led, I think, in the late 1970s, to a reduction  
10 in the number of cottages that were used for children in  
11 care?

12 A. By the late 1970s, yes.

13 Q. And indeed, I think we've heard some evidence that by  
14 the early 1980s there were perhaps only two cottages  
15 that were providing residential care for children in  
16 a more specialised way. Does that accord with your  
17 memory? You may not have --

18 A. Mrs Dunbar was one of the last to be made redundant.

19 Q. So there were redundancies in the early 1980s and  
20 various people had to find other things to do, and some  
21 went into fostering children. I think that was  
22 something you did, is it?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Or your wife.

25 A. We became foster parents.

- 1 Q. And I think others did likewise, is that --
- 2 A. They may have done.
- 3 Q. Or some.
- 4 A. Others went to work with the care of the elderly within  
5 Quarriers.
- 6 Q. So, putting it broadly, I think there was in fact  
7 a policy decision by Strathclyde, whose director was  
8 then Fred Edwards, that they weren't going to, generally  
9 speaking, place children with Quarriers. Can you recall  
10 that? Some time between 1975 and the late 1970s, were  
11 you aware of that, that there was this policy decision?
- 12 A. No, because Fred Edwards visited Quarriers quite often.
- 13 Q. I'm not suggesting that they didn't continue to place  
14 children, but --
- 15 A. I think it was the care in the community, placing them  
16 in the community, keeping them home if possible, working  
17 with the parents.
- 18 Q. But at any rate, the number of placements were dropping?
- 19 A. Dropping, yes.
- 20 Q. Including placements from Strathclyde?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. And indeed Quarriers might have been, to some extent, in  
23 a period of crisis in the late 1970s; is that something  
24 you sensed at the time?
- 25 A. No, I wasn't ...

- 1 Q. You weren't aware?
- 2 A. No.
- 3 Q. We might hear some evidence about that. There were  
4 quite a lot of changes happening; is that correct?
- 5 A. Yes, aye. When we came into the 1980s when Dr Minto and  
6 Viscount Muirshiel drew up an 8-year plan on the future  
7 of Quarriers and that was to make the village  
8 a community, and by that they sold houses off for  
9 private residences -- and we opened up to care of the  
10 elderly and adults with learning disabilities and  
11 developed areas like that.
- 12 Q. So I think you are describing what might be termed,  
13 broadly speaking, some diversification of the activities  
14 of Quarriers away from the traditional provider of  
15 long-term residential care in a village setting for  
16 a large number of children. That model was  
17 disappearing?
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. And they were diversifying in the ways you have  
20 described?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. And some of that involved selling off cottages, using  
23 cottages for other services, for the elderly, for  
24 example, for vulnerable persons with complex needs and  
25 so forth; is that right?

- 1 A. Yes. We brought about 20 residents in from  
2 Lennox Castle.
- 3 Q. So you in fact took children -- was it children or --
- 4 A. These were adults.
- 5 Q. From Lennox Castle and took them out of the hospital  
6 care setting and placed them in a unit in Quarriers;  
7 is that right?
- 8 A. That's correct.
- 9 Q. And that was part of the diversification at that time?
- 10 A. That's right.
- 11 Q. Another initiative at that time, as we understand, was  
12 George Gill, whom you have mentioned, along with another  
13 individual, Joe Broussard, in about 1978, moved to  
14 a special residential school that was known as  
15 Southannan; is that right?
- 16 A. That's correct.
- 17 Q. And that was set up as a special school for children  
18 with behavioural difficulties, emotional problems and so  
19 forth; is that right?
- 20 A. That's correct.
- 21 Q. We understand that when that happened, and that special  
22 school opened, that some children who had previously  
23 been in the care of Quarriers at the village moved to  
24 Southannan?
- 25 A. Yes, that's correct.

1 Q. Something else you might be able to help us with, just  
2 to get the context, is that at some point, perhaps  
3 around about the early 1980s, am I right in thinking  
4 that the William Quarrier School essentially became more  
5 of a specialist school for children with behavioural  
6 problems, learning difficulties, complex needs?

7 A. That was in the 1970s.

8 Q. Was it in the late 1970s?

9 A. The late 1970s.

10 Q. And that other children at Quarrier's Village who were  
11 not seen as requiring these specialist services were  
12 schooled in community schools?

13 A. Well, I think the majority of the house parents felt at  
14 that time that some of the children in the Quarriers  
15 school weren't being drawn to their full potential  
16 because of a number of perhaps special needs children  
17 that were there. Dr Minto discussed with the Director  
18 of Education for Renfrew county, and out of that came  
19 a change, so the children from Quarriers school went to  
20 schools in Linwood -- not all to the one school, they  
21 went to various schools, primaries ... And eventually,  
22 we were involved with 14 different teaching  
23 establishments, which made it difficult for  
24 house parents to attend parents' nights if children were  
25 at two different schools and the parents' night was on



1 the same night. So we appointed an education officer to  
2 act as a liaison for that.

3 Q. Was that Judy Cochrane?

4 A. Judy Cochrane. And she continued that role. She did  
5 special classes, homework classes, helped youngsters go  
6 on to their O levels.

7 Q. And so far as schooling is concerned, before this change  
8 of policy and sending children predominantly to what we  
9 might term mainstream schools in the community, before  
10 that, historically, am I right in thinking that children  
11 who were placed at Quarriers, and certainly children in  
12 your time from 1962 but before then, would generally  
13 attend the William Quarrier School in the village,  
14 although some who were seen or perceived to be more able  
15 from time to time would be sent to other schools to  
16 complete their education?

17 A. Yes, but we've got to remember that the William Quarrier  
18 School was an Education Department building --

19 Q. Yes.

20 A. -it wasn't under Quarriers.

21 Q. No, I think that point's been made already, that the  
22 local education authority had responsibility for the  
23 educational provision at William Quarrier's School, and  
24 indeed they, I take it, would have employed the teachers  
25 who were teaching in the school; is that right?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. But so far as the school was concerned, it was mainly  
3 children at Quarriers, other than perhaps children of  
4 house parents, who attended the Quarriers school?
- 5 A. It was Quarriers children, the children of  
6 Quarriers Homes.
- 7 Q. Historically, the point I was trying to clarify, was  
8 most children at Quarriers, until this change of policy  
9 to send them to mainstream schools, until that change,  
10 most children spent their whole schooling career at  
11 William Quarrier's School, but some who were perceived  
12 more gifted were given the opportunity to attend another  
13 school?
- 14 A. Yes, that's correct.
- 15 Q. Would that be the broad picture of how it was for quite  
16 a long time during your time and before?
- 17 A. Yes. I could tell you that in Roy Holman's time we had  
18 one boy go to Gordonstoun school.
- 19 Q. In the north of Scotland?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. Because of his abilities?
- 22 A. Because of his ability and because there was  
23 a benefactor.
- 24 Q. Who made it possible for that boy to attend Gordonstoun  
25 school?

- 1 A. Mm-hm.
- 2 Q. That would be a rare event, is it?
- 3 A. Oh yes. We had others that went to university and  
4 things like that.
- 5 Q. Just again to understand, historically, while you've  
6 mentioned the establishment of the childcare officer's  
7 department through the initiative of Roy Holman,  
8 historically, before 1962, for example, going back in  
9 time, would I be right in thinking that Quarriers would  
10 not have had a childcare officer department or childcare  
11 officers employed by them?
- 12 A. No.
- 13 Q. And therefore, would it be correct to think that the  
14 structure pre-1960 would essentially be the key players  
15 you've mentioned such as the general director or  
16 chairman, as he was known, the superintendent -- and did  
17 you say the secretary of Quarriers? They would be in  
18 overall charge?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. And then, below them, there would be house parents, who  
21 would be --
- 22 A. No, there was a matron.
- 23 Q. A matron?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. But did the house parents report directly -- I know it

1           wasn't maybe seen in line management terms then, but  
2           were they reporting directly to the superintendent?

3       A.   Yes.

4       Q.   What was the matron's function?

5       A.   I think it varied.  Latterly, they were responsible for  
6           the assistant house mothers and the domestics.

7       Q.   Historically, did they have other responsibilities?

8       A.   Sorry, I couldn't tell you.

9       Q.   It's okay.  So they might be involved in matters such as  
10          the recruitment of cottage aunties, domestic assistants,  
11          matters of that kind, and also, is it practical aspects  
12          of daily life in cottages, they might have overall  
13          responsibility for?

14      A.   Yes.

15      Q.   Like supplies perhaps or ...

16      A.   There was a steward for that.

17      Q.   Okay.  So there wasn't a lady superintendent at any  
18          stage?

19      A.   No, not until later on.

20      Q.   When did that happen?

21      A.   They did away with the matron's role.  We had an  
22          assistant superintendent for a while and then that  
23          changed to domestic supervisor.

24      LADY SMITH:  Bill, I've been given the impression that the  
25          way it worked was that house parents were answerable to

1           the superintendent --

2       A.   That's correct.

3       LADY SMITH:  -- with nobody in between them and the

4           superintendent?

5       A.   Not in the early days, no.

6       LADY SMITH:  Did that mean that, at the height of its

7           activity, Quarriers had a system whereby one person was,

8           to use modern terminology, line managing maybe up to

9           80 people --

10      A.   That's correct.

11      LADY SMITH:  -- given all the house parents?

12      A.   That's correct.

13      LADY SMITH:  Quite a task.

14      A.   Quite a task.

15      MR PEOPLES:  Just to get this clear in my mind, when you

16           became the assistant director of childcare in 1969

17           though, did you become effectively Joe Mortimer's number

18           two?

19      A.   No, because George Gill was also there.

20      Q.   At the same level?

21      A.   At the same level.

22      Q.   But he was --

23      A.   The social work department.  I was responsible for

24           training, the development of intermediate treatment.

25      Q.   So just to deal with the point that Lady Smith has

1 mentioned, even after 1969, would it still be the case  
2 that the house parents really answered to Joe Mortimer  
3 and he was the direct line manager for them?

4 A. No, no. It came through the ... the social work  
5 department. By that time, the team of social workers  
6 were allocated so many of the cottages. So they had  
7 a link with the cottages. There was a monthly staff  
8 meeting, where all the care staff came together.

9 Q. I follow that, but what we have been told at least --  
10 and you can perhaps tell us if --

11 A. They could still go to Joe Mortimer with any problems  
12 the house mother may have.

13 Q. What we have been told is that, certainly in the 1970s  
14 when George Gill and others were part of the in-house  
15 social work team, they were employed to support  
16 house parents -- I think that's the term that was  
17 used -- and to give them advice if they needed it or  
18 wanted it. Is that the way you understood it to be  
19 operating?

20 A. That would be part of it, yes.

21 Q. What we were also told is when it came to exercising any  
22 authority or instruction in relation to house parents,  
23 the social workers had no authority to give instructions  
24 or tell them what to do; that would be Joe Mortimer's  
25 role.

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Is that correct?
- 3 A. That would be correct.
- 4 Q. So although they were a layer of -- a new layer within  
5 this structure, they didn't have any direct power to  
6 tell house parents to do things or not to do things?  
7 That would be the situation?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Just so far as these social workers are concerned,  
10 I think you told us that in your time as a senior  
11 childcare officer and latterly senior social worker,  
12 before 1969, you weren't a qualified social worker at  
13 that time?
- 14 A. No, not a field worker -- not a qualified field worker.
- 15 Q. Indeed, we've heard that when the social work department  
16 was established under George Gill in the 1970s, for  
17 a time at least, many of the in-house social workers  
18 were not qualified themselves, but some of them later  
19 took courses to become qualified social workers; is that  
20 correct? Johanna Brady was one, I think, that may  
21 have -- well, perhaps she's not a good example.  
22 Joe Nicholson, can I take him?
- 23 A. He was a house father --
- 24 Q. Yes.
- 25 A. -- and he had done the residential course.

1 Q. But he became an in-house social worker --

2 A. A part-time social worker, really.

3 Q. But was there a time when he was unqualified and then  
4 took a course to obtain a qualification or is that not  
5 something you'd know about?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Don't worry. If you know -- don't worry, we no doubt  
8 can find out from others who were performing these roles  
9 what their qualifications were.

10 You, before becoming a house parent in 1961/1962,  
11 attended Langside College and you and your wife obtained  
12 this certificate in residential childcare; is that  
13 right?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. To what extent, as you can now recall, did that course  
16 teach you about the responsibilities of a house parent  
17 in a setting like Quarriers? Did you get any guidance  
18 or training as part of that course for the role you took  
19 up?

20 A. Well, yes, because the course itself covered lots of  
21 aspects: medical, there was a degree of social work in  
22 it as well. You went on placements to various  
23 organisations. I spent time -- the first placement  
24 Helen and I were at was at Darvel, which was run by Ayr  
25 county.



1           Our second placement, Helen was at a place in  
2           Edinburgh and I was at Dr Barnardo's at Glasgow and  
3           North Berwick. And finally our last placement was with  
4           Marjorie Urquhart, who was the children's officer for  
5           Aberdeen county, and we visited the homes that she ran.

6           Q. So you gained experience of seeing how other homes were  
7           run, including a home run by Dr Barnardo's?

8           A. Yes.

9           Q. How long, for example, did you spend at the placement in  
10          Glasclune?

11          A. Two months.

12          Q. And were you in residence during those 2 months?

13          A. Yes.

14          Q. That would be in the early 1960s?

15          A. Yes.

16          Q. Do you have any memories of that period?

17          A. Not a lot. It was -- not a strange place, but ...

18                 I wasn't involved with the children an awful lot.

19          Q. During the placement?

20          A. The thing I do remember, in a Nissen hut there was  
21                 a model railway and I never saw one child at it.

22          Q. And that home that you were at, at that time was it  
23                 a mixed home with boys and girls?

24          A. Yes.

25          LADY SMITH: Are we still talking about Glasclune?

1 MR PEOPLES: Yes. I think historically at one point it may  
2 have had a boys' and girls' home in North Berwick  
3 Barnardo's, but it was a mixed home.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. You had obviously some experience of also a home run by  
6 Ayr county, you have just told us, at Darvel?

7 A. Yes, that was a boys' home.

8 Q. Do you have any memories of that?

9 A. It was dual purpose because there was boys in care, but  
10 it was also -- it had a remand section and really the  
11 only difference was that the remand boys, their clothes  
12 were outside the main door, the door of the bedroom.  
13 There was everything else together.

14 Q. Was that a secure part of the building?

15 A. Yes, well, they were locked in the bedroom at night.

16 Q. Do you have any memories of what the regime was in that  
17 home?

18 A. They would come home, the McKays, and they had done the  
19 residential house parents' training course. They also  
20 had a spell at Quarriers after their course but then  
21 went to work for Ayr county.

22 One of the things was that the gardener there was  
23 a very elderly man and he had the supervision of these  
24 boys that were on remand.

25 Q. And I think you tell us that the gardener was about 90,

1 as you estimate, and he was supervising boys on remand?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Okay. So you had some experience through your course at  
4 Langside of different care settings?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Then you go to Quarriers and you're a relief cottage  
7 parent?

8 A. Yes. But we went there first of all and we were placed  
9 with an established house parent.

10 Q. At Quarriers?

11 A. At Quarriers.

12 Q. Was there a particular house parent you were attached to  
13 when you started at Quarriers, can you recall?

14 A. Mr and Mrs Tangeman. This was an all boys' cottage and  
15 we did ... I have to go back further than that. When  
16 we went on our training course, before we started it,  
17 because we had no previous experience of residential  
18 care, we had to do a probationary practical. So we were  
19 put into Quarriers, because we had an association with  
20 Quarriers through our church in Glasgow. The youth  
21 fellowship had befriended a cottage, and the cottage we  
22 befriended at that time was cottage 23, which was Mr and  
23 Mrs Tangeman.

24 We were asked -- when we went there, we were  
25 attached to the Tangemans and that was just to see the

1 routine and things like that. We were there a fortnight  
2 when Quarriers asked us if we would go into a cottage  
3 and hold it until the new couple came, and we were there  
4 for seven weeks.

5 Q. So you had a very short period of shadowing the  
6 Tangemans, two weeks?

7 A. Yes, at that time, and that was just to get knowledge of  
8 routine: when were your laundry days, what -- various  
9 things that happened.

10 Q. Looking back, and having regard to the fact that you  
11 later took on some responsibilities and training, would  
12 you regard that as adequate training and induction for  
13 the job you were about to do?

14 A. No, because that was the policy of it and it had been  
15 carried out all the years: new couples went to an  
16 established couple to get to know the routine and so  
17 maybe you had got two cottages that were doing the --  
18 running the cottage the same way, because the new couple  
19 coming in, they had to go to the establish cottage and  
20 they thought that this was the way it had to be done.  
21 There was no in-service training at all.

22 Q. And I suppose if that was the way things were done with  
23 a short period of shadowing a cottage parent --

24 A. (Inaudible) came through in the 1930s where there was  
25 between 25 and 30 boys in your cottage.

- 1 Q. By the time of the 1960s, how many would be in  
2 a cottage?
- 3 A. Well, when we went into cottage 4 in 1963, we had 16.  
4 And the youngest -- the oldest was 12.
- 5 Q. And the youngest?
- 6 A. Three.
- 7 Q. That was a mixed cottage you told us?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. Was that --
- 10 A. Because from the late 1950s, up until 1958, when  
11 Quarriers changed their name from the Orphan Homes of  
12 Scotland to Quarriers Homes, it became ... It was  
13 actually an all boys' or all girls' cottage. They began  
14 to gradually mix them by putting young boys into girls'  
15 cottages. It wasn't until you went into the mid-1960s  
16 that most of the cottages were mixed.
- 17 Q. So historically, until the 1960s, or the late 1950s it  
18 was all boys or all girls?
- 19 A. It was the Victorian principle that unrelated boys and  
20 girls didn't stay in the same house, and with 25 to  
21 30 boys, they weren't all related.
- 22 Q. But it went beyond unrelated boys and girls, eve related  
23 boys and girls didn't stay in the same cottage?
- 24 A. That's correct, brothers and sisters were separated.
- 25 Q. And that continued to the late 1950s, do you recall,

- 1           when there was a change of policy?
- 2       A.   When it changed from Orphan Homes to Quarriers Homes.
- 3       Q.   And I don't know if you're able to help us with your
- 4           background in Quarriers, but do you know what the
- 5           thinking behind that change was? Did something happen
- 6           then that prepared the way for this change?
- 7       A.   I think society changed, the whole scheme within
- 8           childcare changed. New ideas were coming and training
- 9           courses had started.
- 10      Q.   Yes. Because the then superintendent would be
- 11           Hector Munro --
- 12      A.   Yes.
- 13      Q.   -- when that change was started to mix --
- 14      A.   Dr Davidson --
- 15      Q.   And Dr Davidson. So it preceded the era of the Roy
- 16           Holmans and the Joe Mortimers?
- 17      A.   Yes. It was a gradual process of changing from
- 18           individual boys' and girls' cottages to having mixed
- 19           cottages.
- 20      Q.   Historically, and you may or may not be able to help us
- 21           with this, if we go back to before you started, we know
- 22           that, I think, girls' cottages, would they have been --
- 23           they would have had either a female house parent or
- 24           a couple --
- 25      A.   Yes.

- 1 Q. -- running the cottage?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. And would boys' cottages have a couple generally or  
4 a single house parent?
- 5 A. They'd have a female house mother as well, a single  
6 house mother.
- 7 Q. They could have a single house mother, a boys' cottage,  
8 historically?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. But I take it that no girls' cottage would have a single  
11 house father?
- 12 A. No.
- 13 Q. That wasn't --
- 14 A. It was married couples.
- 15 Q. It had to be a married couple or a single woman?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. Sorry, a single house parent who was female. And do you  
18 know whether historically there was any particular  
19 preference in terms of couples or single house parents?
- 20 A. No, I think just where they could get staff.
- 21 Q. It was as basic as that?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. If they needed the staff they would take what they could  
24 get?
- 25 A. Yes. It wasn't a well-paid job.

- 1 Q. No.
- 2 A. People in the early days were coming probably just for  
3 board and lodging.
- 4 Q. Because that was one of the perks, that you'd at least  
5 get your board and lodging and you'd get whatever pay  
6 you received in those days, which wouldn't be -- you're  
7 suggesting it wasn't a lot of money?
- 8 A. No.
- 9 Q. So far as responsibilities are concerned, as  
10 a house parent, when you were performing that function,  
11 you'd be directly responsible along with your wife for  
12 the care of children in cottage 4; is that correct?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. And you've told us what your responsibilities were when  
15 you became a childcare officer between 1964 and 1969.  
16 You have told us what the job involved, so you weren't  
17 in one sense directly involved with the care of children  
18 at the village, is that right, you were simply living in  
19 cottage 4?
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. And you'd see children outwith your normal working  
22 hours?
- 23 A. Yes. Because there were various other things going on.  
24 There could be the annual sports day or the fancy dress  
25 parade or a concert or something like that.



- 1 Q. So you could be involved in things like that?
- 2 A. Certainly the sports day and fancy dress parade, yes.
- 3 Q. You say that when you became the assistant director of  
4 childcare in 1969, after your spell at  
5 Glasgow University, you had a responsibility for,  
6 amongst other things, staff training; is that right?
- 7 A. That's correct.
- 8 Q. Was that when you first became responsible for training  
9 of staff?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Before you took on that responsibility, was there anyone  
12 who had responsibility for training of staff?
- 13 A. No, there was no training schemes. Nothing. Well,  
14 people could be seconded to Langside, but there was  
15 no ...
- 16 Q. In-service?
- 17 A. In-service. It wasn't until then that the Advisory  
18 Council on Childcare had brought out an in-service  
19 training scheme, which was affectionately known as the  
20 Yellow Peril.
- 21 Q. When you say "peril", is that P-E-R-I-L or P-E-A-R-L?  
22 Is it the former?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. So they brought out this scheme?
- 25 A. Yes. And that was because Quarriers weren't the only

1           ones with untrained staff and it was a case of doing  
2           this out so that organisations, if you like, could get  
3           their house in order.

4       Q.   And this Advisory Council On Childcare, was that  
5           something set up under the 1968 Act or was it an  
6           established body by 1968?

7       A.   It was an established body.

8       Q.   It had existed before the Social Work (Scotland) Act?

9       A.   Yes.

10      Q.   But they had introduced this training programme --

11      A.   In-service training.

12      Q.   -- which organisations like Quarriers could use the  
13           model of and create their own training programmes?

14      A.   Yes.  Those of us who had done the Langside course -- on  
15           completion of it, you got an extra payment on your  
16           salary; in that day it was £70 a year.  Some of the  
17           house parents at Quarriers had been working doing the  
18           job for years, you know, and it did cause ...

19      Q.   Friction?  Tension?

20      A.   Yes.  In some cases, depending on how some of the  
21           trained people used it.

22                 So the in-service training course, Quarriers decided  
23           at the end of it that those that completed it would get  
24           a payment.  It wasn't £70, I think it was about £45.

25      Q.   So if you completed the in-service training along the

1 lines of the Advisory Council model of training, one  
2 consequence would be that you would get an extra £45  
3 a year in your pay packet?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. It's a lot less than the £70 than those who had gone to  
6 Langside got?

7 A. Yes, but the Langside one was full-time, the in-service  
8 was part-time.

9 Q. So it was a part-time training programme?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Did those who took part in the programme get  
12 a certificate at the end of it?

13 A. Yes, they did get a certificate. Quarriers opened their  
14 courses to other voluntary organisations, so we had some  
15 people coming from the Salvation Army who were willing  
16 to take part in the course, and also from St Euphrasia's  
17 at Bishopton where some of the nuns from Kilbirnie  
18 wanted to take part in the course.

19 Q. Those who completed this in-service training course and  
20 received a certificate and an extra £45, was some record  
21 made by the organisation of the fact that they had  
22 obtained this certificate? Was it recorded anywhere, in  
23 a register or --

24 A. I should imagine it probably would be in the staff  
25 records.

1 Q. Just going back to Langside very briefly, you attended  
2 Langside along with your wife in 1961/1962, and it was  
3 a full-time course, did you say, for about nine months  
4 or thereabouts or a year?

5 A. A year.

6 Q. Did you indicate to me earlier in your evidence that  
7 this course was in its infancy, that Langside hadn't  
8 long been offering this course?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. So were you one of the first couples to go there and  
11 enrol? Do you know?

12 A. No, there were couples before. But we had two couples  
13 along with us on our course.

14 Q. Were these couples who worked at Quarriers or who were  
15 going to work at Quarriers?

16 A. (Inaudible). No, there were no other Quarriers staff  
17 there on that course.

18 Q. But there were two other couples on the course?

19 A. Yes, and one of them came to work at Quarriers along  
20 with us.

21 LADY SMITH: Bill, were there any nuns on the course?

22 A. Pardon?

23 LADY SMITH: Were there any nuns on the course?

24 A. Not in our year, but in further years there was.

25 MR PEOPLES: Was the other couple QKR/QKY ?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Were they there at the same time?

3 A. No. QKR -- they weren't even married at that time.

4 QKR

5 Q. Was she on the course?

6 A. The year after us.

7 Q. I see. And apart from Langside, which was offering this

8 residential childcare course as a full-time course for

9 about a year, were there any other places in Scotland at

10 that time that were offering a similar course?

11 A. There might have been one in Edinburgh, I couldn't tell

12 you.

13 Q. I think we heard something about how there may have been

14 one in Aberdeen at some point.

15 A. Robert Gordon College, they did, yes, later on.

16 Q. Later on?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Was it Dr Minto that pointed you in the direction of --

19 Dr Davidson or Hector Munro who pointed you in the

20 direction of Langside though?

21 A. It was Hector Munro. We had an involvement with

22 Quarriers through our church visiting and when we were

23 getting married, we thought we'd like to go and work

24 there. So I approached Hector Munro and he suggested

25 that we went on the course.

1 Q. Just on that matter of how you became involved with  
2 Quarriers, you were involved through your church. Was  
3 that because the church was taking part in essentially  
4 a befriending scheme?

5 A. It started with a representative from Quarriers coming  
6 and speaking to the youth fellowship in the church and  
7 about the work at Quarriers.

8 Q. But did there come a time --

9 A. The youth fellowship approached Quarriers and took on  
10 the role of befriending and the cottage we befriended  
11 was 23, and that was coming down on Friends' Day, which  
12 at that time was the first Saturday of the month, and  
13 any of the boys in 23 that didn't have any visitors that  
14 day, the youth fellowship took them down to the park and  
15 things like that, remembering birthdays and Christmas.

16 Q. I may have read this in your statement or I may have  
17 read it elsewhere, was it Hector Munro and Dr Davidson  
18 that introduced the befriending system?

19 A. Hector Munro.

20 Q. So it was something that was started up in his time?

21 A. Oh yes.

22 Q. So it was established by the time you became  
23 a house parent in 1962/1963?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Although you say your particular youth fellowship was

1 attached to cottage 23, do I take it that there would be  
2 other similar groups in the community that would be  
3 attached to other cottages; is that your understanding?

4 A. Yes, that's correct.

5 Q. And the idea was that these groups would take children  
6 out, for example, on trips?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Would visit them at the village?

9 A. Particularly on Friends' Day, which was the first  
10 Saturday of the month.

11 Q. And would they have them stay overnight?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Was there a rule that prevented that or it just didn't  
14 happen?

15 A. It just didn't happen.

16 Q. I know it's a long time ago, but when this befriending  
17 scheme was in operation and indeed your youth fellowship  
18 were participating and associating itself with  
19 cottage 23, do you know whether any checks were carried  
20 out as to the suitability of the befrienders who would  
21 come to the village and see the children and take them  
22 out?

23 A. No.

24 Q. There were none?

25 A. Nothing like that.

- 1 Q. The befriender scheme, did it continue in operation  
2 throughout your time at Quarriers?
- 3 A. No.
- 4 Q. When did it stop?
- 5 A. It must have stopped in Roy Holman's time. When Hector  
6 did it, there was a good number of children that didn't  
7 have anybody, and some of these befrienders actually  
8 became foster carers of a child. But eventually, the  
9 homes ... I mean Quarriers -- the children Hector Munro  
10 had were more or less abandoned to Quarriers; there were  
11 no parents visiting at all.
- 12 Q. So this was a way of giving these children someone they  
13 could see and have some form of relationship with on  
14 a regular basis?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 Q. They weren't checked out in those days?
- 17 A. No, we did check out later on people wanting to  
18 befriend, but eventually the scheme stopped altogether.
- 19 Q. I suppose I come back --
- 20 A. For what reason I don't know.
- 21 Q. In terms of putting a date on it, do you think it had  
22 ceased to be in operation by the time that Joe Mortimer  
23 became superintendent?
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. Were there any befrienders after that that were visiting



- 1 or applying to be befrienders? Was there a system of  
2 people applying if they could have children?
- 3 A. I can't recall.
- 4 Q. Going back to the staff training that you told us about  
5 and the programme that really had been modelled on the  
6 Advisory Council idea and adopted and that you were  
7 given responsibility for, you've told us that there  
8 would be a certificate, there would be a payment at the  
9 end of it if you successfully completed the course. How  
10 long was the course itself, as you can recall?
- 11 A. A year.
- 12 Q. And you say it was part-time?
- 13 A. Yes.
- 14 Q. And was --
- 15 A. It was only one or two days a week.
- 16 Q. Where was the coursework carried out?
- 17 A. In Quarriers.
- 18 Q. Was there a particular place within Quarriers?
- 19 A. Yes, it was one of the cottages that was empty and we  
20 could maybe use that as a training centre.
- 21 Q. At that stage who was eligible to take part in this  
22 training programme?
- 23 A. House parents at Quarriers.
- 24 Q. Assistants?
- 25 A. Well, in the first stages it was the house parents

- 1           themselves.
- 2       Q.   So it was open initially to house parents?
- 3       A.   Yes.
- 4       Q.   Not assistants or others?
- 5       A.   No.
- 6       Q.   At that stage how many house parents, if you can
- 7           recall -- this would still be a period when there was
- 8           a sizeable number of cottages looking after children.
- 9       A.   Yes.
- 10      Q.   How many house parents at that stage had any other form
- 11       of training before this in-service training? Had they
- 12       been trained at all, the people in 1969? What was the
- 13       training position about house parents? Had they had any
- 14       training up until then? I mean generally speaking,
- 15       I don't need precise numbers. Would the majority have
- 16       been untrained?
- 17      A.   Five or six.
- 18      Q.   Out of? There were 40 cottages.
- 19      A.   No, 35. About 35 cottages.
- 20      Q.   So maybe five or six out of 35 cottages had --
- 21      A.   This is at Langside College course you're talking about?
- 22      Q.   Well, I suppose I was --
- 23      LADY SMITH: I thought you were talking about the in-house
- 24           course.
- 25      MR PEOPLES: No, I wasn't really. I was wanting to know

1           what happened before the in-house course in 1969.

2           I think you're telling me there wasn't an in-house  
3           training before 1969 but that maybe five or six out of  
4           35 house parents had attended Langside College. Is that  
5           what you're telling me?

6           A. Yes, they could be seconded.

7           Q. Or had been seconded, had had some form of training in  
8           residential child care? So that means the majority had  
9           had no training up until 1969?

10          A. That'd be right.

11          Q. And there was no in-service training until it was  
12          established in 1969?

13          A. That's correct.

14          LADY SMITH: Is that a neat way to leave it?

15          MR PEOPLES: That's probably as neat as any.

16          LADY SMITH: Thank you.

17                   Bill, we're going to stop now for the lunch break  
18                   and I'll sit again at 2 o'clock.

19           (1.05 pm)

20                                   (The lunch adjournment)

21

22

1 (2.00 pm)

2 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples.

3 MR PEOPLES: Good afternoon, Bill. Can I perhaps resume  
4 some questions on in-service training which we were  
5 talking about before lunch.

6 So far as the training was concerned, just remind  
7 me -- the course was held at Quarrier's Village as an  
8 in-service training programme. Did you tell me before  
9 lunch it was organised for two days per week?

10 A. It was about that.

11 Q. Was that a full day --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- each time?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And I think you said the venue was some vacant cottage  
16 or building in Quarrier's Village?

17 A. That's correct.

18 Q. You also said that it was initially open simply to house  
19 parents who hadn't received some appropriate training  
20 and I think that was the majority, we'd established, who  
21 hadn't been to Langside or done any other form of  
22 training?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. How long did the course last?

25 A. About a year.

- 1 Q. Can you just tell me a little bit about the course  
2 itself? Who ran it? Did you run it?
- 3 A. I arranged the programme. I brought in various speakers  
4 to take part from -- the Director of Education came in  
5 to speak about education, and various people like that,  
6 the medical side, talked about that. So we had people  
7 like that. But it also included visits of observation  
8 for them, a day visit, and that was sometimes with the  
9 women's visitors and the RSSPCC would take them round  
10 and show them one or two things and visit various places  
11 like that.
- 12 Eventually, the course ceased at Quarriers and  
13 Langside took it on, and I was still involved then,  
14 going up as a seminar leader.
- 15 Q. Can you help me with when approximately the in-service  
16 training programme you're describing did cease within  
17 Quarriers and perhaps became something that Langside  
18 offered? Do you remember?
- 19 A. Probably about two years after we started because by  
20 that time we had got Quarriers -- the majority of  
21 Quarriers staff through it. Then after that, we  
22 seconded them to the Langside College for the in-service  
23 course.
- 24 Q. The course itself, during the time it was an in-service  
25 course -- you have told us that you'd organise some

1 external speakers to speak to those in attendance and  
2 you'd organise some trips, away days, to see various  
3 places. I think we've heard some evidence that there  
4 may have been at some point visits to a social work  
5 department --

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. -- in Dumbarton. Does that ring a bell? Maybe I have  
8 got that wrong.

9 A. Not Dumbarton.

10 Q. But there might have been visits --

11 A. The likes of Glasgow certainly.

12 Q. So far as the course itself is concerned, were there any  
13 internal contributors in terms of speakers?

14 A. Yes: the likes of Mr Mortimer.

15 Q. So he might speak on occasions --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. -- as well. Were there course materials distributed at  
18 each of those sessions or not, materials that they could  
19 take away, read and consider and discuss?

20 A. There was a book list to start with of various books  
21 that they could read. But it was not a lot of ... input  
22 from me. I just supervised it, drew up the programme  
23 and made sure that they attended various -- we took them  
24 round to a school, a visit to a school, a secondary  
25 school, and things like that. Eventually, it took over

1 to Langside and I was still involved because I was going  
2 up there one day a week as a seminar leader.

3 But over and above that, we also had students coming  
4 in from other courses, like the Barmulloch College.

5 They had a junior course for young girls interested in  
6 doing residential work. They came on placement to us --  
7 and while they were with us, they were supervised.

8 Q. Would you attend any of these sessions during the period  
9 that the course was running? Would you actually attend  
10 in person?

11 A. Oh yes.

12 Q. So far as the in-service course is concerned, I am just  
13 interested as to what extent it may have included  
14 training in certain matters. For example, training in  
15 how to do the job of being a house parent to vulnerable  
16 children living away from home. Was that part of the  
17 course? I know it's a while ago now.

18 A. I can't recollect the syllabus, but it would come in  
19 somewhere on the syllabus. One of the external speakers  
20 probably touched on it.

21 Q. Would it have included training in how to discipline and  
22 punish children in the care of house parents, including  
23 what would or would not be appropriate forms of  
24 punishment? Would it have covered that?

25 A. I don't think so.

- 1 Q. Would it have covered how to deal with challenging  
2 behaviour on the part of children in the care of  
3 house parents?
- 4 A. That could come through the medical side.
- 5 Q. Right. Would it have covered how to deal with children  
6 with emotional problems?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. How to deal with children's learning difficulties?
- 9 A. That all came into it. The house parents knew that.
- 10 Q. I was just trying to establish what they would have  
11 gained from the course rather than what they may feel  
12 they knew. Do you think these things would have been  
13 touched on?
- 14 A. From some of the speakers, yes.
- 15 Q. Would they have been given any training how to deal with  
16 children with mental health issues?
- 17 A. Yes -- but mental health wasn't an issue in those days.
- 18 Q. Well, it wasn't perceived to be an issue.  
19 Would they have been given any training in how to  
20 deal with different stages of development in childhood,  
21 including in particular the onset of puberty?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. That would have been part of it?
- 24 A. That would come in on the medical side.
- 25 Q. Would they have been given training in the matter of



- 1 record-keeping and what records should be kept?
- 2 A. Yes, because the records system had started with  
3 Roy Holman. Prior to that, the house parents didn't  
4 keep any records.
- 5 Q. Specifically would this course have covered the issue of  
6 record-keeping?
- 7 A. Yes. There would be that kind of ...
- 8 Q. Would it have covered the issue of physical and/or  
9 sexual abuse of children in a residential care setting?
- 10 A. That I can't recollect, sorry. I shouldn't have thought  
11 so.
- 12 Q. You told me before lunch that you estimated that perhaps  
13 five or six out of the 35 or so cottages prior to 1969  
14 may have had persons who had attended Langside College  
15 and done the sort of course you did.
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. So the vast majority, I think you told us, would not  
18 have attended Langside and would not have had that  
19 training?
- 20 A. No, they would have gone through the in-service.
- 21 Q. Are you telling us that the balance of the cottages,  
22 they would all have gone through this in-service  
23 training?
- 24 A. Yes, that was the whole purpose of the scheme.
- 25 LADY SMITH: Was it compulsory? Did they have to? Did they

- 1           have to do the in-service training?
- 2       A.   That I can't ... I think ... Actually, I think they  
3           were quite pleased that they were given the opportunity  
4           to be trained.
- 5       MR PEOPLES: I think the point is -- there's a very big  
6           difference between an opportunity and making training  
7           mandatory or compulsory for people in a certain  
8           position. I think what Lady Smith is asking -- and  
9           I was about to ask the same -- is: was it a mandatory  
10          training for house parents and others?
- 11      A.   No.
- 12      Q.   Are you able to say with any degree of confidence that  
13          all house parents in the cottages where they hadn't been  
14          to Langside, that all house parents and other staff in  
15          those cottages went through the in-service training  
16          you've described? Are you able to say with any  
17          confidence that that did happen?
- 18      A.   I can't say they all went through it.
- 19      Q.   No, but you've got a memory that some took part in this  
20          training?
- 21      A.   The majority took part in it.
- 22      Q.   You think it's a majority?
- 23      A.   Yes.
- 24      Q.   When you say a majority took part in the training, are  
25          you saying they took part during the two or so years

1           that the training was being provided at Quarriers or  
2           also after a similar course was available at Langside?

3           A. Yes.

4           Q. The latter?

5           A. Those that had the opportunity at Quarriers and then  
6           after that, they went to Langside.

7           LADY SMITH: I suppose, Bill, that the longer house parents  
8           had been working at Quarriers without having had any  
9           such training, the greater the risk of them saying to  
10          themselves, "I don't need to go on a course, we've had  
11          so much experience, we don't need that".

12          A. Yes.

13          LADY SMITH: I'm not saying they were right, but the risk  
14          would be there, I suppose, wouldn't it?

15          A. Yes, I think that was acknowledged, that they had years  
16          and years of experience, that young students coming off  
17          the course thought they knew it all because they'd been  
18          through a training course, but that wasn't so.

19          MR PEOPLES: But was there any -- well, can you recall  
20          whether there was resistance on the part of some  
21          established house parents to the idea that they should  
22          attend in-service training or attend external training  
23          at Langside? Was there resistance on the part of some?

24          A. No.

25          Q. You're not aware of any?

- 1 A. I wasn't aware of it.
- 2 Q. Are you telling us that while it was initially  
3 a training course that was available only to  
4 house parents, I think that was what you told us before  
5 lunch, that the training programme was extended to other  
6 care staff in cottages?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. So that if there were cottage aunts, for example, or  
9 assistants, they had the opportunity -- and I use that  
10 word --
- 11 A. Some of these cottage aunties already -- who came to  
12 work for us had come through the Barmulloch course, so  
13 some of them might have been trained.
- 14 LADY SMITH: Sorry, which course was that?
- 15 A. Barmulloch College, a primary course in residential  
16 care.
- 17 LADY SMITH: Thank you.
- 18 MR PEOPLES: I take it, and you've said, that it maybe  
19 wasn't -- even in the late 1960s, early 1970s, it wasn't  
20 always perceived to be the most attractive jobs to be  
21 a residential care worker, whether as a house parent or  
22 cottage assistant. Was that still the situation in  
23 those days? It wasn't necessarily seen as a great job?
- 24 A. I think as time went on it certainly was -- it became  
25 a recognised profession.

- 1 Q. But I take it that even in the late 1960s and early  
2 1970s, when trying to recruit both house parents and  
3 cottage aunties or assistants, to some extent Quarriers  
4 really had to take those that showed an interest,  
5 whether qualified or not, whether experienced or not, if  
6 they were interested and met the basic criteria of being  
7 willing to work, perhaps with a good Christian  
8 background and things like that, they were taken on?  
9 Is that the reality? They needed the staff so they took  
10 them?
- 11 A. In actual fact, house parents tended to stay for a long  
12 time. The changes was with the assistants: they were  
13 the ones that changed quite regularly.
- 14 Q. So there was a higher turnover --
- 15 A. The house parents were there for many years.
- 16 Q. So there was a higher turnover in the case of cottage  
17 assistants --
- 18 A. Yes.
- 19 Q. -- and they would be quite young people?
- 20 A. Some of them were, yes.
- 21 Q. And indeed, cottage parents could be quite young, could  
22 they not?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. I think we heard of one cottage who was 24 when she was  
25 given her own cottage without any great prior experience

1 of looking after vulnerable children or having any  
2 qualifications. I think we had one person who was  
3 in that category give evidence. Do you think that would  
4 have been quite young?

5 A. Yes, for a house mother, yes. Mostly they tended to be  
6 married couples.

7 Q. I think this person was married. She was 24 but she was  
8 married, and indeed I think we've heard of a situation  
9 where perhaps people who applied for the posts of  
10 house parents would be married and perhaps also have  
11 young children of their own as well as having the  
12 responsibility for perhaps 12, 14 children who were not  
13 their own. There would be people in that situation,  
14 would there not?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And I suppose that would put extra pressure on people  
17 in that situation if they have young families to look  
18 after and 12 or 14 children, not all of whom would be  
19 angels.

20 A. Yes. It was then the role of the administration to make  
21 sure that the children of the -- the natural children  
22 didn't become the deprived.

23 Q. I suppose it would also be the role of the organisation  
24 to make sure that the children in care were treated just  
25 as well as the children of the house parents, the

1 natural children. Would that also follow? That there  
2 shouldn't be a difference of treatment in the same  
3 household?

4 A. There shouldn't be.

5 Q. Was there from time to time?

6 A. I couldn't tell you.

7 Q. I think some -- there's been some evidence to the effect  
8 that perhaps at times, given a person with, say, a young  
9 family and 12 or 14 children to look after of mixed  
10 gender and mixed ages, that sometimes that could be  
11 quite stressful and it could be quite a hard job to deal  
12 with that situation without a lot of support and  
13 training. Do you take that point? Do you think that's  
14 a valid point?

15 A. I think so, yes.

16 Q. And do you think at times that there would be  
17 house parents that found it difficult to cope?

18 A. Yes, and would probably leave.

19 Q. But if they didn't leave and soldiered on and they  
20 weren't coping well, is that not a situation where there  
21 is a risk that the children in their care could end up  
22 being mistreated?

23 A. I suppose that risk could be there, yes.

24 Q. Because I think you --

25 A. I can't say for certain.

1 Q. But I think if we go back to the days of Roy Holman, he  
2 worked out that to try and ensure that the belt wasn't  
3 used in anger, it was better to take the belt away, try  
4 and let the house parent cool down and see if they still  
5 wanted to use the belt. That's surely a good example  
6 that there's a danger that someone could lose control  
7 and do something spontaneously.

8 A. I'm not privy to that, sorry.

9 Q. You don't know whether that was happening?

10 A. No.

11 Q. But who would be able to check that that wasn't  
12 happening in your time? Who were the people whose job  
13 it was?

14 A. The social work team came in. There was social workers  
15 involved with each of the cottages, a social worker that  
16 was responsible for really four or five cottages. They  
17 could ... If it was going on, it would feed back  
18 through someone.

19 Q. And what would you expect to happen then?

20 A. It would come to the superintendent.

21 Q. And what would you expect the superintendent to do?

22 A. He'd go and see them and discuss what was happening.

23 Q. And would he take action?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. What sort of action might he take?



- 1 A. He might discharge them.
- 2 Q. Dismiss them?
- 3 A. Yes, as did happen.
- 4 Q. Can you think of any examples where that happened?
- 5 A. One of the youth leaders, in front of other kids,
- 6 smacked a girl on their bottom with a sandshoe. He was
- 7 discharged the next day. That was his job and his house
- 8 away.
- 9 Q. When did that happen? Do you recall?
- 10 A. That was around Joe Mortimer's time, so it was in the
- 11 early 1970s.
- 12 Q. Early?
- 13 A. Early 1970s.
- 14 Q. Did you ever remember a house parent being dismissed --
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. -- for doing something like that?
- 17 A. No.
- 18 Q. Or a cottage auntie?
- 19 A. No.
- 20 Q. And presumably, this incident you described that led to
- 21 the dismissal would have been in full view of a number
- 22 of people?
- 23 A. Yes.
- 24 Q. And instantly verifiable then?
- 25 A. Uh-huh.

1 Q. It might be more difficult if you're in a house parent  
2 situation and there's children and a house parent and  
3 something is said to have happened. How was that  
4 catered for?

5 A. The children said it --

6 Q. If children were alone in a house with a house parent  
7 and, for example, they felt they had been abused or  
8 ill-treated, how did the organisation address that  
9 possibility?

10 A. The organisation would have to know about it.

11 Q. Well, if they were told about it.

12 A. They'd investigate it.

13 Q. And how would they determine whether to accept the word  
14 of the child or the word of the house parent?

15 A. I think in Joe Mortimer's time the child would be the  
16 priority.

17 Q. Would be believed?

18 A. Yes. But unfortunately, they didn't talk about it.

19 Q. Who didn't talk about it?

20 A. The children didn't talk about it.

21 Q. You don't feel they did report things?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Why was that?

24 A. I don't know.

25 Q. Because the system should be such that they feel

1           confident enough to report such things, do you not  
2           agree?

3           A. They should have been.

4           Q. But you can't explain why they weren't reporting things?

5           A. No. And they had plenty of people that they could  
6           report to. There was the social worker, youth leaders,  
7           even the domestics. Some of these had a very caring  
8           attitude to the children and made good relationships  
9           with the children. So there was various avenues in  
10          which the child, if so, could have -- but they didn't.  
11          They didn't speak about it. Why, I don't know.

12          Q. Can I just ask you a little bit about complaints and  
13          what the processes were as far as you can help us on  
14          this.

15                 First of all, did you ever have direct  
16          responsibility when you were employed for dealing with  
17          complaints, whether from staff or children?

18          A. No.

19          Q. If not, who had that responsibility?

20          A. That'd be Mr Mortimer.

21          Q. Did you ever have any responsibility for investigating  
22          complaints and in particular allegations that might have  
23          been made by children against staff?

24          A. No.

25          Q. That wasn't your function?

- 1 A. No.
- 2 Q. Who did? Whose function was it?
- 3 A. Again, it was the social workers involved with each of  
4 the houses and investigating would be Mr Mortimer.
- 5 Q. He would be the investigator?
- 6 A. Yes. His door was always open. He had an open-door  
7 policy where the children could come at any time to see  
8 him.
- 9 Q. Well, I think we've heard that said, but be that as it  
10 may, we've also heard it said that it'd be very  
11 difficult for some vulnerable children to go to the boss  
12 in his office at Holmlea and tell him about a serious  
13 allegation against a member of staff. Do you accept the  
14 difficulty that that might present for a child, a young  
15 child, looking at it from their perspective?
- 16 A. It might have been for them, yes, and could have been.  
17 But the door was there, it was open. He made it known  
18 quite widely.
- 19 LADY SMITH: How did he do that?
- 20 A. Pardon?
- 21 LADY SMITH: How did he do that? How did Mr Mortimer make  
22 it known to children that they would be welcome to go  
23 and speak to him at any time?
- 24 A. We had a forum, a children's council --
- 25 LADY SMITH: I have heard about that.

- 1 A. -- which had representatives from each of the houses.
- 2 LADY SMITH: But that's one representative from each  
3 cottage, just one.
- 4 A. They'd be able ... So if he got it to them, they could  
5 feed it back to the others, because the children talked  
6 about each other, they talked amongst themselves.
- 7 LADY SMITH: Do you know whether as a matter of fact at  
8 these meetings Mr Mortimer spelt out regularly that the  
9 cottage representative children should keep reminding  
10 the individual children that they could come and talk to  
11 him at any time?
- 12 A. No, sorry, my Lady. I can't ...
- 13 MR PEOPLES: Did you ever attend these meetings?
- 14 A. No, it was only Mr Mortimer.
- 15 Q. And I think we heard from some others that the purposes  
16 of this council, however innovative an idea it was, was  
17 not to be a forum in which to raise individual  
18 allegations or complaints, because that would be an  
19 inappropriate place to raise such a matter; would you  
20 agree with that?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. There would have to be some other process that a child  
23 could follow to make a confidential complaint.
- 24 Is that --
- 25 A. That'd be direct.

- 1 Q. So that would be direct to Joe Mortimer?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. And that would depend on whether they had the courage to  
4 walk through his door? Do you see the point?
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. And do you happen to know from personal knowledge how  
7 many children did take that walk through the door?
- 8 A. No, sorry; I only know of one.
- 9 Q. Who was that?
- 10 A. That was a boy -- a member of staff, their son, and he  
11 came to see Mr Mortimer and asked for a change of  
12 cottage.
- 13 Q. A member of staff's son?
- 14 A. Aye. He had fallen out with his father, so he came to  
15 Mr Mortimer and asked him if he could change cottages.
- 16 Q. That's the only one you're aware of that took advantage  
17 of this open-door policy?
- 18 A. It was there.
- 19 Q. I appreciate you've just told us that you weren't  
20 responsible for handling complaints or indeed  
21 investigating complaints. Is that the position? You  
22 didn't have direct responsibility for either --
- 23 A. No, because apart from the training, I was developing  
24 intermediate treatment and I was away from the village  
25 quite a lot.

1 Q. But when you were in the village, I take it you would be  
2 a person that a child could turn to to make a complaint  
3 or report?

4 A. They could have.

5 Q. You were one of the people they could turn to?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And children would know that?

8 A. It wouldn't be a directive.

9 Q. I'm not saying it's a directive, I just want to know  
10 whether they would know that you were a person that they  
11 could speak to.

12 A. I think they could, yes.

13 Q. And did that ever happen?

14 A. No, it never happened, because I would have taken it  
15 directly to Mr Mortimer for him to investigate.

16 Q. So can I just be clear: were you ever told by a child  
17 that he or she was being abused by a house parent or any  
18 another adult, whether that adult was employed by  
19 Quarriers or not? Were you ever told of abuse?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Have you any recollection of being told by female  
22 residents that Sandy Wilson was sexually abusing them?

23 A. No.

24 Q. You have no recollection?

25 A. They never did.

- 1 Q. Is it possible you were told but you've forgotten?
- 2 A. No.
- 3 Q. It just didn't happen?
- 4 A. It didn't happen.
- 5 Q. You have told us there was a befriending system in  
6 operation at Quarriers, at least in your early days.  
7 I think you told us that earlier. Do you remember, you  
8 told us about the youth fellowship attached to  
9 cottage 23 and so forth?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Can you ever recall asking boys who were in the care of  
12 Quarriers about sexual abuse that had occurred on a trip  
13 outside Quarriers in the company of a befriender?
- 14 A. No.
- 15 Q. You can't recall an occasion when that happened?
- 16 A. It never happened.
- 17 Q. You said that children would know that Joe Mortimer  
18 operated an open-door policy, although you've said that  
19 you're not aware of that policy being one that they took  
20 advantage of, other than the boy you've mentioned.
- 21 A. Uh-huh.
- 22 Q. What steps, if any, to your knowledge, were taken to  
23 explain to children what would happen in the event of  
24 them making a formal complaint of ill-treatment or  
25 abuse? What steps were taken to explain the process?



1 A. (Pause).

2 Q. Do you know if any were taken?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Is that a "No, they weren't" --

5 A. It's a "No, I don't think" --

6 Q. Who would decide -- in the event of a complaint or an  
7 allegation of abuse being made by or on behalf of  
8 a child, who would decide whether the matter should be  
9 reported to outside agencies such as the police and/or  
10 a placing authority? Who would make that decision?

11 A. Mr Mortimer.

12 Q. And are you aware of any guidance being given by the  
13 organisation to assist those dealing with complaints of  
14 ill-treatment or abuse, guidance that would help them  
15 decide whether the matter should be reported to the  
16 police?

17 A. No, sorry.

18 Q. You weren't aware of such guidance?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Just on the matter of guidance and policies and so  
21 forth, you've told us that in-service training may have  
22 dealt with some matters that were relevant to  
23 house parents and their role. But during your period of  
24 employment, which you told us ended in 1996, during that  
25 period between 1962 or 1963 and 1996, at what point, if

1 at all during that period, were written policies  
2 introduced on matters like child protection, complaints,  
3 record-keeping, discipline, punishment, recruitment,  
4 training of staff? At what point were written policies  
5 introduced by the organisation? Can you help with us  
6 that?

7 A. Roy Holman brought in a procedure of reporting. There  
8 was the report sheet, there was the punishment sheet for  
9 them to record punishments, and also a visitors' sheet  
10 for people that visited. On the report sheet,  
11 house parents were asked to have something on there at  
12 least once every three months on that. That was kept  
13 within the cottage unit. There was one for each child,  
14 a set of the three papers for each child, and they were  
15 kept in the cottage, and when that child was discharged,  
16 the papers went to the office and were married with the  
17 general file --

18 Q. For the child?

19 A. -- for the child.

20 Q. So you're telling us that --

21 A. Then when Joe Mortimer -- that kind of stopped. There  
22 was a record book, which again was a record of  
23 punishments and visitors and a record of fire drills and  
24 that. What happened to these books, I just don't know.

25 Q. I'll maybe ask you a little bit about records, including

1 the matter you've touched on there. So what you're  
2 telling us is that before Roy Holman's time, which was  
3 1964, there was no system of maintaining records about  
4 children in the cottages?

5 A. No.

6 Q. And that Roy Holman, in his short period, apart from  
7 removing the belts, introduced a system of  
8 record-keeping by house parents?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. That involved having three sheets, one for putting in  
11 reports on the child, one for recording punishments, and  
12 a third for recording visitors?

13 A. Mm-hm.

14 Q. And that for each child, there were three forms?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And you told us, I think, that there was an expectation  
17 in his time that the report sheet would be -- at least  
18 there would be an entry once every three months?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. That's a long time between entries for a child in care,  
21 is it not? A lot can happen in three months.

22 A. Well, it depended on the youngster. I mean, for some of  
23 them, there was probably something every other week.  
24 But the maximum was three months.

25 Q. Have you ever seen any of the records for that period,

1           the Roy Holman records with the three sheets? Have you  
2           ever seen any that have been completed?

3           A. I've seen them put in files.

4           Q. You've seen them in files?

5           A. I haven't read them.

6           Q. You said to us you think these records that were kept by  
7           the cottage parents, the system as understood was that  
8           these records should find their way to the child's file.

9           A. Uh-huh.

10          Q. And at what point would they find their way to the  
11          child's file under --

12          A. When the child was discharged.

13          Q. So they should be with the child's file?

14          A. Yes.

15          Q. Is there any reason why they would not be with the  
16          child's file?

17          A. No.

18          Q. And if in the many children's files that Quarriers now  
19          has there are no or very few examples of such sheets  
20          being found, what's the explanation?

21          A. That I haven't heard about. The punishment book in  
22          Joe Mortimer's time, they've disappeared through --  
23          I don't know. But the other files of the individuals  
24          were in the files. They should be.

25          Q. So for the period when Roy Holman was there and this

1 system was in operation, children who were discharged  
2 who were in Quarriers at that time should have within  
3 their records sheets, these three sheets?

4 A. There should be.

5 Q. And they should disclose the types of punishment they  
6 received in that period?

7 A. There should be.

8 Q. Okay. When Joe Mortimer came in in 1965, I think you  
9 have just told us that the system changed.

10 A. It gradually changed. It didn't change overnight.

11 Q. So the three-sheet system continued for a time?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. For how long?

14 A. I can't tell you. Sorry, I can't recollect.

15 Q. Why was it changed? Can you help us with that? It  
16 sounds like a perfectly decent system for the time.

17 A. I think you'd have to ask a house parent for that  
18 because ...

19 Q. But it wouldn't have been the house parents' decision to  
20 change the system; it would have been the decision of  
21 those in charge, such as Joe Mortimer and Dr Davidson  
22 and others.

23 A. And Dr Minto.

24 Q. Or Dr Minto latterly if it changed in his time. So it  
25 wouldn't be the house parents that would be saying, "I'm

- 1 not going to do this".
- 2 A. No, no, no.
- 3 Q. But you can't help us with why this change came about?
- 4 A. No.
- 5 Q. But it did come about?
- 6 A. It must have done, yes.
- 7 Q. You say it must have done. I just --
- 8 A. If it stopped ...
- 9 Q. So whatever prompted it, there was a change. And the  
10 change was one, where you told us, that in  
11 Joe Mortimer's time at some stage, there was what you  
12 describe as a record book or a logbook or something of  
13 that nature?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. What did it look like?
- 16 A. It was a quarter (indicating) of that size. Brown.  
17 Outside it said "Record book". In it there were sheets  
18 for recording punishments, recording visitors, recording  
19 fire drills.
- 20 Q. So was it a pro forma book that had been printed for use  
21 of house parents?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. And it had sections for punishments, visitors and other  
24 records?
- 25 A. Yes.

1 Q. So it wasn't dissimilar to the previous system in that  
2 respect?

3 A. Well, it didn't record anything about the child; it was  
4 just punishments, fire drills, visitors.

5 Q. So there was no sheet to record general information  
6 about the progress of the child in care?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Whereas before, in Roy Holman's version, the report  
9 sheet was available for that purpose --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- so that you would get nothing that would inform you  
12 about the child's progress in care under the Mortimer  
13 system? You'd just get a record of punishments and  
14 visitors?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Is that what it would come to?

17 A. There must have been some other kind of form of  
18 record-keeping.

19 Q. You say there must have been. I just --

20 A. Well, I wasn't privy to it. It wasn't within my remit;  
21 it was the social work team that were doing that.

22 Q. When you say the social work team, are you talking about  
23 the period when George Gill had established a team or  
24 before then?

25 A. No, George Gill.

1 Q. So this system that we're talking about now that came in  
2 in Joe Mortimer's time is one which you recall being in  
3 place when there was the in-house social work team  
4 headed by George Gill?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And there was some form of brown-covered book in which  
7 entries were made?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Was it a loose-leaf book?

10 A. No, no, it was stapled.

11 Q. And so far as recording anything in the book is  
12 concerned, you're saying there was nothing in that book  
13 that allowed the house parent to enter information about  
14 a child and its development?

15 A. No.

16 Q. No?

17 A. No. Not in these books, no.

18 Q. But there were pages for entering punishments?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And visitors?

21 A. Yes: punishments, fire drills, visitors.

22 Q. Were these in different sections of the book?

23 A. Yes. And the books came down monthly to Mr Mortimer.

24 Q. Yes. I'll maybe get that from you in a moment.

25 Sticking with the books, if punishments were



1           faithfully recorded, were they recorded just as and when  
2           for any child, or was it just a continuous narrative of  
3           punishments like sort of --

4       A.   No, it was individual children.

5       Q.   So there would be pages for individual children?

6       A.   No, no, sorry, it would just be continuing: the date,  
7           the child's name and what the punishment was; date,  
8           child's name, punishment.

9       Q.   So it wouldn't be possible to put that information  
10          directly into an individual child's file, would it,  
11          because you'd have to extract it?

12      A.   Yes.

13      Q.   And did that happen?

14      A.   No.

15      Q.   Why not?

16      A.   I don't know.

17      Q.   Because that happened before, you said, under the Holman  
18          system?

19      A.   Aye, that was the three sheets, because they were for  
20          each child.

21      Q.   Yes, but this --

22      A.   The book was a cottage book.

23      Q.   So this system didn't really allow that to happen  
24          readily?

25      A.   No.   They came monthly to Joe Mortimer.

1 Q. What did Joe Mortimer do with the books when they came  
2 monthly?

3 A. He read them, he initialled them, he noted what was  
4 happening -- and I am quite sure that if he picked up  
5 punishment to a child regularly, then he would have  
6 investigated it. He would have investigated it.

7 Q. Was he the only person who would routinely checked these  
8 books?

9 A. Yes, that was his role.

10 Q. And every book from every cottage was submitted to him  
11 on a monthly basis for him to look at and initial?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. But not one of these books, to your knowledge, still  
14 exists?

15 A. No.

16 Q. When did you last see one of these books?

17 A. Probably before I retired.

18 Q. In 1996?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. How long before you retired?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. How long before would you have seen --

23 A. I couldn't tell you that.

24 Q. Where were these books -- well, they were kept in the  
25 cottages, but what happened when they were filled up and

1 a new book was required, where were the old books kept?

2 A. They'd come to the office.

3 Q. And where were they stored in the office?

4 A. Well, that's what I don't know. I wasn't privy to that.

5 That was the social work side.

6 Q. You think they'd have been stored in the social work

7 department?

8 A. Could have been.

9 Q. But it was Joe Mortimer that checked them, not the

10 social workers; do you follow?

11 A. Yes. He checked them, but he wouldn't store them.

12 I mean, there were other admin staff. There were

13 clerical staff who sorted the filing and things like

14 that.

15 Q. Because we heard that the social workers had their own

16 notes and records; were you aware of that?

17 A. They would do, yes, I suppose.

18 Q. But this is a separate record that went to Joe Mortimer,

19 but you're saying that you don't know where he kept them

20 or what happened to them when they were filled up? No?

21 A. No. I just don't know where they went or what happened

22 to them.

23 Q. But you've seen such books?

24 A. Oh yes.

25 Q. How regularly did you see these books?

- 1 A. We had one in our own cottage.
- 2 Q. You kept one as well?
- 3 A. I didn't, but my wife did.
- 4 Q. Over the years that your wife was a house parent, what  
5 period are we talking about, how long was she  
6 a house parent, from 1962 until 19 ...?
- 7 A. Well, since I came out from being a house father.
- 8 Q. You did, but how long did your wife continue to be  
9 a house parent?
- 10 A. Until she was made redundant.
- 11 Q. In the 1980s?
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. Did she therefore keep this sort of log or book?
- 14 A. She would have.
- 15 Q. She would have got through --
- 16 A. And there would have been the person carrying out the  
17 fire drills because it wasn't done by the house parents,  
18 they had a fire officer. He would record it in the  
19 book.
- 20 Q. And this system continued throughout that period you  
21 understand and it was the system your wife used?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. The books that were kept in your house when you retired  
24 and she retired or was made redundant, you don't know  
25 what happened to those?

- 1 A. They should have gone back to the head office.
- 2 Q. And there would be a number of them, presumably, over  
3 the years?
- 4 A. Yes, considering Quarriers' files go back to 1872.
- 5 Q. Well, exactly, yes. If this system was across the  
6 board, there would have been a lot of these books in  
7 circulation during the time that this system was in  
8 operation between 1965 or thereabouts until 1982 or  
9 beyond. There should have been a lot of books?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. But you can't find any?
- 12 A. No. Not even in my role of archivist could I find them.
- 13 Q. It's a pretty big mystery, this, isn't it?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Were you aware of there ever being any instruction given  
16 by or on behalf of the organisation that these books  
17 should not be retained --
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. -- for whatever reason?
- 20 A. No, nothing at all.
- 21 Q. So there is no reason why they shouldn't still be  
22 available?
- 23 A. They should still be there.
- 24 Q. And the expectation, you tell us, was that the books  
25 should contain all punishments that were given out?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. In whatever form?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And record the type of punishment?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. The date?

7 A. The date.

8 Q. The person punished?

9 A. And the type -- yes.

10 Q. Would the reason for the punishment be recorded as well?

11 A. It may have been.

12 Q. From your own knowledge, did you look at the books in

13 your house?

14 A. No. No.

15 Q. So you're not able to tell us how much information was

16 put in about the background to the punishment?

17 A. No.

18 LADY SMITH: Wouldn't it be natural to record the reason as

19 well as the nature of the punishment?

20 A. Yes, it would have been, yes. But ...

21 LADY SMITH: It's human, isn't it?

22 A. Yes.

23 LADY SMITH: "Did such-and-such to a child because"?

24 A. Yes.

25 LADY SMITH: It gives an explanation.

1 MR PEOPLES: It wouldn't be a very helpful punishment record  
2 unless it told you why the child was punished, because  
3 otherwise Joe Mortimer would have some difficulty  
4 deciding whether he should call them in and say, "I've  
5 read this, I want to" --

6 A. It was possibly recorded properly, recorded why he got  
7 punished, he or she got punished, and the cause of the  
8 punishment.

9 Q. So just remind me: you retired in 1996?

10 A. Uh-huh.

11 Q. And I think you tell us in your statement, you took on  
12 the role of honorary archivist for 10 or so years,  
13 between 1996 and 2006. In that period did you ever see  
14 any of these punishment books?

15 A. No.

16 Q. So by the time you had taken on this role, you were  
17 unable to locate any of those books?

18 A. That's correct.

19 Q. Can I just be clear, in terms of your access to records  
20 of children, when you were in Quarriers as an employee,  
21 would you have reason to access children's files for any  
22 purpose?

23 A. Yes, I would have.

24 Q. Were the child's records during your period if you  
25 needed to consult them?

- 1 A. They were kept in Holmlea.
- 2 Q. Were they kept in a particular part of Holmlea?
- 3 A. Yes, in the ... The main office -- well, the  
4 social work side of the building.
- 5 Q. So in the area --
- 6 A. The filing cabinets were there. You were able to --  
7 there was also books with the name ... an admission book  
8 with the child's name and that, and it would list its  
9 folio number and you could go there because you might be  
10 looking at something that ... They may be due to  
11 leave -- because apart from boarding out, I had  
12 a responsibility for supervising boys going to work, in  
13 work situations, and we did this aftercare. They went  
14 to employment, we found digs for them, we supported them  
15 until they were financially able to cater for  
16 themselves.
- 17 Q. And these records that you're telling us about when you  
18 were employed that were in Holmlea, in the social work  
19 side of the building, were they records to which  
20 individuals had restricted access, there were only  
21 certain people that could access them?
- 22 A. No, the office staff -- well, that were doing the  
23 administration for the admission of the child. They  
24 were the people who made out the file to start with. So  
25 they would -- if there was a request came in from



1           somebody asking for information, they could, on behalf  
2           of the superintendent, get that file out. There was no  
3           restriction on it.

4           The only restriction was that ex-Quarriers children  
5           who were employed by Quarriers, which were one or two of  
6           them, their files had been removed from the system and  
7           the secretary held them.

8           Q. Who was the secretary?

9           A. This was Mr Burnell by this time by that stage because  
10          David Easton retired after 25 years, and then Mr Burnell  
11          came in and he did another 25 years.

12          Q. At what point did you become involved -- because I think  
13          we've heard some evidence that you were involved -- at  
14          what point did you become involved in searching records  
15          and responding to requests by former residents for  
16          access to records corresponding with them, seeing them  
17          as they visited Quarriers? Was that when you were  
18          honorary archivist?

19          A. It was before that as well.

20          Q. And that would involve you having to search for records  
21          that you could share with them?

22          A. Yes.

23          LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples, I'm just wondering how much longer  
24          you think you need Bill. I'm very conscious of the fact  
25          that we've been asking him a lot of questions for quite

1 a long time now and I'm sure he's quite tired.

2 MR PEOPLES: There's more to go, I have to say. I'm going  
3 to try and do it ...

4 LADY SMITH: A five-minute break? Would that help, Bill?  
5 Are you okay to cope with that? I'm very conscious of  
6 the demand that we're putting on you.

7 A five-minute break and then we'll come back to you.

8 (2.50 pm)

9 (A short break)

10 (2.57 pm)

11 LADY SMITH: Mr Peoples.

12 MR PEOPLES: Bill, if I could just continue, just on the  
13 matter of records, you told us that you would, both  
14 before and after retiring, be involved in searching  
15 records in the context of former residents wanting  
16 information about their time in care.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Can I ask you this in relation to that matter: was the  
19 organisation's policy at that time when you were doing  
20 this role that former residents should be allowed access  
21 to their full records, was that the policy?

22 A. Present residents or discharged resident.

23 Q. If a former resident came in search of their records and  
24 said, "I would like to see my records", was the policy  
25 of the organisation for a person such as yourself to

- 1 find all records and disclose them?
- 2 A. Yes, because one Thanksgiving -- that's the Quarriers  
3 annual meeting at one time -- it was allowed to invite  
4 the former boys -- because those that had been brought  
5 up in the 1930s, 1940s, things weren't discussed with  
6 them, the records weren't discussed with them. So I was  
7 given the opportunity then to have a Saturday where the  
8 former boys and girls could come and view their records.  
9 I was allowed to do that for former boys and girls. It  
10 gave them the chance to find out about it.
- 11 Q. I'm thinking more of a situation which we've heard about  
12 where people have come some time after leaving care and  
13 have either called up or corresponded to say that they  
14 would like to see their records, and I understand that  
15 you were a person that would deal with such requests --
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. -- when you were an archivist, for example.
- 18 A. That's correct.
- 19 Q. And you have told us what the policy was. I think some  
20 at least tell us that when they did go to make these  
21 requests, they might get some records but they felt that  
22 they didn't get all the records and indeed they might  
23 have got more records at a later stage. Can you help us  
24 with why that might have been the case?
- 25 A. No, when I did it, they saw their whole record.

1 Q. So did you search for everything on that child or that  
2 former resident?

3 A. Did I what?

4 Q. If you got a request for records, did you search for  
5 everything on that --

6 A. I didn't have to search for it; it was all in the one  
7 file.

8 Q. And during the time that you were an honorary archivist  
9 between 1996 and 2006, can you tell me, where were the  
10 historic children's records kept that you could look  
11 out?

12 A. Part of the -- I was based in what became Quarriers  
13 shop, it was the former Quarriers store. It became  
14 a gift shop promoting items made by the epileptic  
15 centre, epilepsy centre. Also, by that time, we had  
16 resident craftspeople in the village, designing  
17 (inaudible) ceramics, and their stuff was displayed so  
18 visitors could come in and see that. The files, the  
19 storage of that, was done in what was known as the old  
20 cobbler's shop at the back of the store, quite a secure  
21 place.

22 Q. Were they kept in secure conditions?

23 A. Yes, in filing cabinets.

24 Q. And who had access to the historic records at that time?

25 A. Well, I did.

1 Q. Anyone else?

2 A. Mr Mortimer. Social workers, if necessary.

3 Q. But otherwise, people didn't have unrestricted access?

4 A. No, no.

5 Q. Can I maybe move on? We've already touched on the  
6 matter of discipline and punishment at Quarriers and you  
7 told us that there was the time when the tawse was  
8 withdrawn from the cottages; that was in Roy Holman's  
9 time.

10 I think we've heard, and maybe you can confirm,  
11 there did come a time when any form of corporal  
12 punishment was prohibited. Was that in your time?

13 A. I think Joe Mortimer tried to put a policy in, yes.

14 Q. I think the evidence we heard was maybe to the effect  
15 that that particular blanket ban on corporal punishment  
16 may have come in in the early 1980s. Does that accord  
17 with your --

18 A. That was still Joe Mortimer's time.

19 Q. Yes. So that could be right?

20 A. It could be right yes.

21 Q. Assuming that was about the right time when this  
22 corporal punishment ban came into force, up until that  
23 time when the tawse had been withdrawn from the  
24 cottages, but up until that time, was there any express  
25 prohibition on the use of other instruments to

1 administer corporal punishment, such as slippers or  
2 spoons or sticks or batons? Was there an express  
3 prohibition?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Was there any express prohibition on smacking a child on  
6 the leg or bottom or clipping them on the head?

7 A. That ... I can't recollect anything like that being --  
8 if it was written or not.

9 Q. So was it really a case that the house parents  
10 themselves were left to decide what form corporal  
11 punishment should take?

12 A. I think in most cases, yes.

13 Q. Was there any express prohibition at any time during  
14 your period of employment on isolating a child by, for  
15 example, putting them in a shed or a cupboard and  
16 leaving them there for a time?

17 A. These things -- but you've got to remember what the shed  
18 was. It wasn't a garden shed.

19 Q. No, I think --

20 LADY SMITH: We've seen photographs of them, Bill; we know  
21 what they're talking about.

22 A. Okay.

23 MR PEOPLES: My point is: was there any express prohibition  
24 on a house parent taking a child to a shed and leaving  
25 them there for a period of time?

- 1 A. Not that I -- no, there was nothing written.
- 2 Q. Or locking them in a cupboard?
- 3 A. They weren't -- you'd hope common sense would prevail
- 4 there.
- 5 Q. But we know that some of these things did happen because
- 6 there were convictions, were there not, for such things?
- 7 Wilful ill-treatment convictions. You're aware of that,
- 8 aren't you?
- 9 A. I know of them, yes.
- 10 Q. So they did happen.
- 11 A. But I didn't see it happen.
- 12 Q. I'm not suggesting you did, but they did happen?
- 13 A. They could have, yes.
- 14 Q. No, did, because they were established to have happened.
- 15 A. Right.
- 16 Q. Generally speaking, during your period of employment,
- 17 would it be fair to say that house parents had a large
- 18 measure of autonomy in relation to how their cottages
- 19 were run and how children should be disciplined and
- 20 punished, a lot of autonomy?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. To your knowledge, did Joe Mortimer ever challenge that
- 23 autonomy by issuing instructions to house parents on
- 24 what they could and could not do?
- 25 A. I'm sorry, I can't --

- 1 Q. Did Joe Mortimer ever challenge that autonomy?  
2 Do you see the point I'm making?
- 3 A. Yes, I do. No, I don't think he ever did.
- 4 Q. Did he ever take any steps to achieve a consistency of  
5 practice -- and by that I mean good practice -- within  
6 cottages in relation to the treatment of children?
- 7 A. I think we've got to appreciate, first of all, every  
8 cottage was different. That was one of the beauties of  
9 the village. No two houses were the same. And that's  
10 one of the things that perhaps annoy us when accusations  
11 are made that every house was the same. It wasn't. So  
12 it was left to the house parents, to their integrity, as  
13 to how they operated and ran that cottage to the way  
14 that they wanted or worked with them and the children.
- 15 Q. So it sounds --
- 16 A. There was no written --
- 17 Q. No written guidance or instruction or direction?
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. It sounds to me that the system depended heavily on  
20 trust, being trusted to do the right thing?
- 21 A. I think so, yes.
- 22 Q. I think you told me that you have no recollection indeed  
23 of any child coming to you to report any instance of  
24 abuse or ill-treatment; is that right?
- 25 A. That's correct.



1 Q. When John Porteous was the subject of an allegation of  
2 sexual abuse in 1982 by a male resident, did you become  
3 aware of that at the time?

4 A. No.

5 Q. You weren't aware?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Because we know that the police were involved at that  
8 time.

9 A. I wasn't -- what date did you say?

10 Q. 1982. You don't remember that --

11 A. No.

12 Q. -- happening? So you weren't made aware?

13 A. Not me, no. There was no reason for me to be made aware  
14 of it.

15 Q. Were you friendly with John Porteous at that time?

16 A. I was friendly with quite a number of the staff.

17 Q. Were you friendly with him?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Friendly with his wife?

20 A. Yes, we worked together.

21 Q. But you were more than colleagues, you were friends,  
22 I think. I think that's what we understand; is that  
23 right?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. And indeed, you're still friends?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And did they mention to you that he had been the subject  
3 of an allegation?

4 A. No.

5 Q. So it didn't --

6 A. We didn't talk about these things.

7 Q. So it didn't come to light -- or at least to your  
8 attention?

9 A. Not to my attention.

10 Q. Were you aware of an internal investigation in the early  
11 1970s into an allegation or complaint by a female  
12 resident of inappropriate touching by a member of staff  
13 who at the time was employed at the hostel in  
14 Quarrier's Village? Were you aware of an allegation --

15 A. Sorry?

16 Q. It was an allegation against a member of staff who was  
17 employed at the hostel within Quarrier's Village in the  
18 early 1970s. There was a complaint of inappropriate  
19 touching by a female resident. Do you remember anything  
20 about that?

21 A. No, sorry.

22 Q. You weren't involved?

23 A. I wasn't involved in it, no. Because by that time, the  
24 social workers were, and I was away on various other  
25 things.

- 1 Q. But as you've said, and I think it's a matter --  
2 a number of former staff that you're well aware of have  
3 been convicted of offences against children in the care  
4 of Quarriers.
- 5 A. Yes.
- 6 Q. You're aware of that?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. You're aware of the conviction of Sandy Wilson, for  
9 example?
- 10 A. I know of it, yes.
- 11 Q. Of 15 offences involving, sexual offences and assault;  
12 were you aware of that?
- 13 A. I have been told about it, yes.
- 14 Q. And I think six of his victims, we understand, were  
15 female residents and two were young cottage assistants.  
16 Did you ever hear of anything that --
- 17 A. No.
- 18 Q. -- would have alerted you to --
- 19 A. No.
- 20 Q. -- what was happening and what he was doing to these --
- 21 A. No.
- 22 Q. -- persons?
- 23 A. No.
- 24 Q. You didn't hear any talk of anything?
- 25 A. No.

- 1 Q. And did you know Effie Climie?
- 2 A. She was a house mother, yes.
- 3 Q. And she was convicted of assaulting three children in  
4 her care between December 1968 and April 1974 during the  
5 time that you were an employee. Did you have no  
6 knowledge of such things going on?
- 7 A. No, because by 1969 I was on to training and away and  
8 out from the village.
- 9 Q. But the offences continued until 1974 when you were back  
10 in the village.
- 11 A. No, I was out doing many other things.
- 12 Q. I see. So you weren't aware that there was anything  
13 untoward in her cottage?
- 14 A. I wasn't aware of these kind of things.
- 15 Q. Ruth Wallace; did you know her?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. She was convicted of seven offences involving assault  
18 and wilful ill-treatment of six children in her care  
19 between 1971 and 1981. Did you never hear anything said  
20 about her cottage?
- 21 A. No, because I wasn't involved in the cottages.
- 22 Q. But was there never discussion about them?
- 23 A. No.
- 24 Q. Many former residents have told the police, during  
25 a major police investigation, which I think you will be

1 well aware of, that they had been sexually or physically  
2 abused at Quarriers. Are you aware of that?

3 A. Yes, I was involved with --

4 Q. And I think in fact the number may come to something  
5 like 140 who made complaints to the police about abuse  
6 in the 1960s and 1970s. That's a lot of people.

7 A. Yes, aye, it's a lot of people, but they didn't talk  
8 about it, they didn't make complaints.

9 Q. Well, is that --

10 A. If they didn't make complaints, then we can't deal with  
11 it.

12 Q. Is that the best explanation you can give, that if there  
13 are that many complainers and there's a lot of  
14 convictions, are you saying that you were unaware as  
15 were others because no one made a complaint? Is that  
16 what you're saying?

17 A. Well, yes.

18 Q. But I think the police will tell us that a number of  
19 people who did report to them said to the police that  
20 they mentioned abuse at the time. Now, if that be the  
21 case --

22 A. Certainly not to me.

23 Q. Not to you, but they might have done to others?

24 A. They may have, but certainly not to me. I was involved  
25 in the trial of Sam McBrearty. That was the first case.

1           The police came and got information from me. And  
2           I spent three days in the court outlining the history  
3           and policy of Quarriers. Sam McBrearty stayed in the  
4           house next door to us and I didn't know a thing about  
5           it.

6           Q. Were there cottages in your time that had a reputation  
7           as bad cottages?

8           A. What's a bad cottage?

9           Q. Somewhere bad things happened to children.

10          A. No.

11          Q. You didn't hear of cottages with that reputation at any  
12          time?

13          A. No.

14          LADY SMITH: Did you hear of any cottages referred to as  
15          "not so good" as compared to cottages that were good?

16          A. Only the children talked about it.

17          LADY SMITH: What about the social workers?

18          A. No. Not the social workers, no. The children would  
19          want to maybe transfer to another house because they  
20          thought that they were getting things that they weren't  
21          getting --

22          LADY SMITH: Bill --

23          A. -- children's things.

24          LADY SMITH: Bill, Mr Peoples has been asking you about the  
25          number of people who worked at Quarriers who were

1 convicted of abusing children and the number of people  
2 who complained of having been abused. One of the  
3 numbers that he put to you was up to something like 140.  
4 In all honesty, how do you feel about that now?

5 A. Shocked in a way that that large number ... But what  
6 period of time are we talking about of this 140?

7 MR PEOPLES: I just put to you, Bill, what that number  
8 was -- and it's not the total number of complainers --  
9 for abuse in the 1960s and 1970s; there were actually  
10 a lot more complainers for other decades. So I'm trying  
11 to confine it to a period when you were working there.

12 I'm just trying to get some explanation how it could  
13 be that you and perhaps others would say, "We didn't  
14 know anything about these things going on". That's what  
15 I'm trying to get to, whether there's some answer you  
16 could give to those children who were abused. What do  
17 you say to them if they say, "How could you possibly not  
18 know"? What's your answer?

19 A. Because we weren't involved in other houses. You hadn't  
20 the time. I mean, you worked -- you had one day off  
21 a week from 9 in the morning to 10 at night. All your  
22 concentration was on your own house. You didn't  
23 socialise with other houses, you didn't talk to children  
24 in other houses. They didn't visit you.

25 LADY SMITH: All right, Bill, put that way, maybe what

1           you're trying to say is the position was that, yes, you  
2           were taking it on trust that all the house parents could  
3           be trusted to ensure children were properly looked  
4           after, but equally you were taking a big risk, weren't  
5           you, if you didn't know what was going on behind closed  
6           doors?

7           A. Well, it should have come to light with the social work  
8           team.

9           MR PEOPLES: Just on that point, Bill, I think the  
10           social work team, or some of them, have actually told us  
11           in evidence -- in fact we've had evidence recently from  
12           one social worker who said that he did report things  
13           that were going on in cottages and indeed he had  
14           a conversation with you about a particular matter on one  
15           occasion, I'll just mention if I can in that respect.

16           The first thing is he told us about a cottage,  
17           cottage 26, where the house parents were the QLQ/QLR  
18           Do you remember that cottage?

19           A. Yes.

20           Q. It was a cottage for children with epilepsy, boys.

21           A. Yes.

22           Q. And he told us that one thing that he and others found  
23           out was that they were using a punishment stool for  
24           children with epilepsy, putting it on the half landing,  
25           and making them sit there for long periods, putting them



- 1 at risk. Did you know anything about this?
- 2 A. No, not a thing.
- 3 Q. Because he said certainly he raised this matter with at  
4 least -- he doesn't say he raised it with you, but he  
5 did say he raised it with Joe Mortimer and Dr Minto and  
6 indeed he wrote a letter and I think he was concerned  
7 enough that he had to get advice from a Mr Laxton --  
8 I think you may remember his name -- that he should be  
9 copied in lest nothing be done about this. Did you ever  
10 find out anything about this?
- 11 A. Nothing at all.
- 12 Q. There was another report of someone in cottage 14, where  
13 the person, a boy, who was transferred there by the  
14 house father, a boy who had epilepsy and was told by the  
15 house father on arrival, "Nobody takes fits in my  
16 house". And this was raised with Jean Morris and also  
17 with Joe Mortimer, and all they said, according to the  
18 witness, "That's just the way **QFO** is, that's just what  
19 he's like". That's what he would say. Did you ever  
20 hear of that?
- 21 A. No.
- 22 Q. Had you heard of that, what would you have done?
- 23 A. I'd have seen Joe Mortimer.
- 24 Q. But Joe Mortimer just said --
- 25 A. And (inaudible) Mrs Morris, I don't know.

1 Q. It doesn't sound as if he was very effective on that  
2 occasion. Would you have expected better of him?  
3 A. Yes, I would have.  
4 Q. And Jean Morris?  
5 A. Yes.  
6 Q. If this is how it was said or responded to.  
7 A. Knowing the house father, it could have been.  
8 Q. And just on a more specific matter, the witness,  
9 Stuart McKay, told us that he had a conversation with  
10 you on one occasion about a cottage run by a couple  
11 called the [REDACTED] QFG/QFH Do you remember the [REDACTED] QFG/QFH  
12 A. Yes.  
13 Q. Cottage 38?  
14 A. Yes.  
15 Q. And what he told us told the inquiry was that he  
16 recalled an occasion when there was an emergency  
17 placement of a boy in cottage 38 at a time when the  
18 [REDACTED] QFG/QFH were on their day off. When they came back the  
19 following day, the house mother asked to speak to  
20 Mr McKay and said, "How dare you bring a Catholic into  
21 the house?" And according to Mr McKay, when he spoke to  
22 you in passing a short time after --  
23 A. Spoke to me?  
24 Q. I'll just tell you what he said. When he spoke to you a  
25 short time after, he recalled you saying, "Oh, that will

1           be the **QFG/QFH** ", as if you knew what sort of people  
2           they were.

3           A. I don't know where all this is coming from.

4           Q. You can't recall that conversation?

5           A. No.

6           Q. And there was another piece of evidence to the effect by  
7           another -- that in relation to a particular couple in  
8           cottage 33, that they didn't like social workers, the  
9           people who you say should have spotted things. Do you  
10          know cottage 33?

11          A. Yes.

12          Q. And you know the couple I'm meaning?

13          A. Yes.

14          Q. And apparently Dr Minto at one point issued an  
15          instruction to the social workers not to go to  
16          cottage 33. Were you aware of that?

17          A. No, not aware of it. Knowing Dr Minto, it could have  
18          been.

19          Q. Why do you say that?

20          A. Well, just ... the friendship that was there.

21          Q. Was there maybe too close a friendship at times between  
22          the leaders and the house parents?

23          A. No, no, no.

24          Q. No? That affected their judgement?

25          A. No.

- 1 Q. You don't think that?
- 2 A. I don't think so.
- 3 Q. Why would Dr Minto tell the social workers to back off?
- 4 A. I can't tell you that.
- 5 Q. They were the guardians, according to you, of the  
6 children in the cottages, so it made no sense for them  
7 not to go allowed in?
- 8 A. No, true.
- 9 Q. Do you agree with that?
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. So can we agree on one thing, Bill, that whatever you or  
12 others were told or not told, if you and Joe Mortimer  
13 and indeed others trusted those who abused vulnerable  
14 children, events have shown that trust was seriously  
15 misplaced, have they not?
- 16 A. Yes.
- 17 Q. And with the benefit of hindsight, would you agree that  
18 Joe Mortimer and perhaps Dr Minto should have exercised  
19 greater authority over the house parents and taken more  
20 action to curtail their autonomy?
- 21 A. In hindsight, yes.
- 22 Q. And for those who were abused, I think you'd agree with  
23 me that Quarriers could not have been a good experience?
- 24 A. Abuse in any situation is not a good experience.
- 25 Q. And what would you say to them today, those who were



1 attending. I know it has been a long session for him.

2 LADY SMITH: Yes. There's just one thing I wanted to check  
3 with you, Bill. Can you go back to paragraph 109 in  
4 your statement? You start in this paragraph by talking  
5 about the tawses being removed from the cottages, and it  
6 wasn't specifically that I wanted to check with you.

7 At the end of that paragraph you referred to an  
8 official document on discipline having come from the  
9 government at some point before that, but you didn't  
10 know whether it was applied by house parents. Can you  
11 remember what that document was?

12 A. Yes. It was brought out by the Secretary of State,  
13 I think. It stated quite clearly what should happen.  
14 There is a copy around.

15 LADY SMITH: The Secretary of State for Scotland?

16 A. I think so.

17 LADY SMITH: If I mentioned the words "Curtis Committee" to  
18 you, does that mean anything?

19 A. They produced a report on residential care.

20 LADY SMITH: A very detailed report.

21 A. Yes.

22 LADY SMITH: Do you remember that in that report they  
23 strongly recommended that there should be no corporal  
24 punishment in voluntary homes?

25 A. I know of the Curtis report, but I can't recollect.

1 LADY SMITH: I just wondered whether that was in the back of  
2 your mind when you mentioned that in your statement.

3 A. No, there was another --

4 LADY SMITH: There is a later one than that because Curtis  
5 was as early as 1946, that recommendation was made.

6 A. So that's two years before the Children's Act.

7 LADY SMITH: That's right, yes.

8 MR PEOPLES: Perhaps on the point your Ladyship's raised, we  
9 know that there were certain regulations passed  
10 following the Children (Scotland) Act in 1959. Are you  
11 thinking that there may be some link between this  
12 document that you referred to in paragraph 109 and those  
13 new regulations about the administration of children's  
14 homes and so forth? Do you think it could be linked to  
15 that.

16 A. I might have been, I don't know. I can't say for  
17 certain.

18 LADY SMITH: Well, thank you for what you can remember about  
19 that, Bill.

20 Could I check whether there are any outstanding  
21 applications for questions of this witness? No.

22 Bill, those are all the questions we have for you.  
23 Thank you very much indeed for engaging with the  
24 inquiry, both in providing your written statement and  
25 coming along today. It has been quite a long day for





1           you have given to the inquiry. When we refer to parts  
2           of your statement, it will also appear on the screen in  
3           front of you. So as we go through various matters, if  
4           you want to use the paper copy or you're fine with the  
5           screen, either is fine.

6           A. Thank you.

7           Q. But to start with, I would like you to look at your  
8           statement and we've given it a reference number, which  
9           is WIT.001.002.1674.

10                  Firstly, if you could use the paper copy and turn to  
11           the back page, that should be page 1696. Can you  
12           confirm that you have signed your statement?

13           A. I can confirm.

14           Q. In the paragraph above your signature, at paragraph 138,  
15           if you could confirm that you have no objection to your  
16           witness statement being published as part of the  
17           evidence to the inquiry and you believe the facts stated  
18           in your witness statement are true.

19           A. I can confirm.

20           Q. You can put that to one side just now.

21                  Judy, could you confirm the year of your birth? We  
22           don't need the date or the month, simply the year.

23           A. 1940.

24           Q. We know that you have given a statement to the inquiry  
25           in relation to your role as education liaison officer at

1 Quarriers.

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. We know from your statement that you had certain  
4 qualifications and work experience, that you had an  
5 honour's degree in English, history and politics, and  
6 you also had experience of teaching. It was with those  
7 qualifications and experience that you were recruited by  
8 Quarriers in the latter part of 1980 to the post of  
9 education liaison officer.

10 Can you help me: for what reason were Quarriers  
11 recruiting you to such a post at that stage?

12 A. I understood it to be that they had already decided that  
13 to try and make the experience in Quarriers a more  
14 normal one for children, that it would be probably  
15 a good idea for the children not to be educated within  
16 the village as they had been to that date in the  
17 Quarrier's School, but that they should go out to  
18 schools in the local community so that they would have  
19 the opportunity to experience other children and develop  
20 a wider experience generally through their educational  
21 programmes.

22 Q. You tell us in your statement that when you applied for  
23 the job, you attended an interview there and you say  
24 that you were interviewed by Dr Minto and Mr Mortimer,  
25 and there was also someone external to Quarriers who was

- 1           involved in that interview.
- 2           A. Yes, that would be from the local education authority in  
3           Renfrewshire -- well, it would be Strathclyde at the  
4           time, but locally based in Renfrewshire. And that was  
5           obviously to do with the local authority's involvement  
6           in the schools in the area.
- 7           Q. You started in 1980 and you left Quarriers in 1986 at  
8           a time, you tell us, that the numbers of children had  
9           depleted to about 25 or 30 children.
- 10          A. I think probably it was closer to 40, but there had been  
11          a drastic reduction from the early 1980s, when --  
12          I think when I went there it was maybe 350, 380. So the  
13          decrease happened very rapidly over those years.
- 14          Q. Were you aware at the time for the reasons for the  
15          sudden reduction in numbers?
- 16          A. Oh yes, it was made clear that Strathclyde had  
17          introduced a fostering programme on the understanding  
18          that residential care was not the best way to look after  
19          young children and bring them up, and therefore it went  
20          in for a very expensive fostering programme.
- 21          Q. You tell us in your statement that in terms of the  
22          management structure, when you were employed, you  
23          understood your line manager to be Joe Mortimer?
- 24          A. That's correct, yes.
- 25          Q. And do you remember the post that he held at the time?

- 1 A. The depute to the director.
- 2 Q. The director, was that Dr Minto?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. Turning to page 1676 of your statement, when you tell us  
5 about Joe Mortimer, and turning further to page 1677,  
6 you tell us something about training.
- 7 A. Does that come up on the screen?
- 8 Q. It will come up on the screen in front of you.
- 9 A. Yes, okay.
- 10 Q. You tell us, firstly, that you didn't have any proper  
11 induction when you started.
- 12 A. That's correct, I didn't. I was informally taken around  
13 to meet people so that at least I could put a face to  
14 a name and a cottage to a family, if you like, but there  
15 was no sitting down -- because there was no proper  
16 induction.
- 17 But as I said later, I had never had an induction  
18 programme when I went into teaching or when I went into  
19 the university. I don't think it was the norm then, so  
20 you can hardly castigate Quarriers for not having  
21 provided that -- at least I don't castigate them. But  
22 I was just aware subsequently that, really, I was left  
23 very much to my own devices to get to know the structure  
24 and the way the organisation operated.
- 25 Q. You also say that you didn't receive any additional

- 1 training when you were there.
- 2 A. No, I didn't.
- 3 Q. Do you know whether or not there were any opportunities  
4 for you to undertake additional training?
- 5 A. Because I was pretty busy in the job, I didn't  
6 investigate those, but it wasn't until probably later in  
7 my period there -- I'm talking probably 1984 to 1986 --  
8 that I was aware that some staff in the cottages were  
9 being encouraged to go and do some initial care  
10 training.
- 11 Q. Because you mention that house parents had had no  
12 training. Can you help us with how you learned that or  
13 how you came by the view that they didn't have training?
- 14 A. I got it from the social work team in Quarriers and also  
15 sometimes from the house parents themselves, when they  
16 spoke to me. I was aware that cottage -- I think it was  
17 26, that had the children with epilepsy in there, that  
18 the cottage parents there did have nursing degrees.  
19 I think that I am right in saying that I knew  
20 Mr Mortimer was qualified, I think as an almoner, and  
21 worked in Aberdeen, and Dr Minto had a background in  
22 education and appropriate qualifications.
- 23 Q. You have explained that you are not aware of there being  
24 any encouragement at Quarriers to house parents to go on  
25 training courses until, you thought, maybe about 1984.

1           Quarriers tell us that a training officer was appointed  
2           from around the beginning of 1980, so ought to have been  
3           there when you arrived. Do you remember a training  
4           officer at all?

5           A. I remember one coming, but -- I think a Penny Forshaw,  
6           but I don't remember her being around greatly.

7           Q. Do you remember the name Christine Ross, does that mean  
8           anything to you?

9           A. Yes, it does. I do remember her, but for, again,  
10          a brief period, but ... I wasn't aware, and as far as  
11          I know, I never asked what their roles were. They  
12          seemed to do more with social work than they did  
13          anywhere else.

14          Q. Okay, so at the time you were there, you didn't know  
15          that Christine Ross was a training officer?

16          A. I knew she -- yes, I did know her title, I wasn't at all  
17          clear what she actually did.

18          Q. In terms of when there was encouragement by Quarriers to  
19          house parents to go on courses, it has been suggested by  
20          some other witnesses that there may have been some  
21          in-house training available for house parents at the  
22          time you were there, around the time certainly in 1980,  
23          it is said. Is that something you were aware of at all?

24          A. It's quite possible, but I wasn't aware of it, no.

25          Q. Moving on to your role as education liaison officer,

1 further down on that page you tell us that your role was  
2 explained to you by Dr Minto and that in essence your  
3 role was to oversee the educational progress and  
4 development of the Quarriers children who were moving to  
5 external schools.

6 A. Who had already moved to external schools before  
7 I arrived there, yes. That's correct.

8 Q. Although your role was explained to you by Dr Minto, do  
9 you remember when you were there, when you arrived,  
10 whether you were ever given any sort of written guidance  
11 or instructions, like a staff handbook or anything of  
12 that nature?

13 A. No, I think I said in my statement that I was not aware  
14 of any policies or procedures that Quarriers had. I am  
15 not saying they didn't have them; I just was never  
16 offered a handbook or even thought about a handbook.  
17 I assumed that there would be certain guidelines within  
18 cottages, for instance for the health and care of the  
19 children, but certainly I wasn't aware of a general  
20 handbook that was available to staff.

21 LADY SMITH: Why did you make that assumption?

22 A. Why did I make that assumption? Because, as I said  
23 earlier, in the previous jobs that I'd been in,  
24 I similarly had not had any policies and procedures  
25 offered to me, or any handbook that might contain them.

1           So I was a bit of an ingénue at this stage, I think, and  
2           it was something I didn't necessarily expect.

3           Retrospectively, I realise how little I knew and how  
4           little I knew as to whether there was in fact anything  
5           in the way of guidelines or procedures or ways in which  
6           to report incidents, et cetera.

7       LADY SMITH: I'm following that, Judy, but in relation to  
8           the cottages in particular, you said you assumed that  
9           for the cottages there would be certain guidelines and  
10          I just wondered why you assumed that the cottages would  
11          have that.

12       A. Because, digging deep into my memory, at some reviews  
13          where a child had perhaps had an accident in the  
14          cottage, fallen and banged their head, it was reported  
15          at the review, so I had assumed that that would also  
16          have been somewhere logged in a procedural note in the  
17          cottage.

18       LADY SMITH: Thank you.

19       MS RATTRAY: You tell us in a little more detail about what  
20          you actually did in your role, that involved liaising  
21          with schools and liaising with house parents, and you  
22          found that house parents did respect your area and  
23          weren't trying to interfere at all in the job you were  
24          doing.

25       A. That's correct.



1 Q. And that you also liaised with foster parents or  
2 prospective foster parents where a child was moving out  
3 of Quarriers and changing school in some way at that  
4 stage.

5 You say at paragraph 25 on page 1678 of your  
6 statement that:

7 "Children weren't used to being in situations with  
8 children from outwith Quarriers."

9 A. The children who had been taken from Quarriers and  
10 placed in schools around the area were not used to being  
11 with other children. So if they were in a classroom --  
12 maybe just an individual from Quarriers might be in  
13 a classroom with 29 other children -- it wasn't  
14 something they had been used to in the past.

15 Q. So obviously, school is one example, and clearly if the  
16 Quarriers children went to school together, they would  
17 be together, but it's your impression they didn't have  
18 any experience of mixing with children in other settings  
19 outwith Quarriers other than school?

20 A. I just don't know whether they did or not. I know there  
21 was a youth officer who organised things outwith  
22 Quarriers, but again, whether that involved mixing with  
23 other children, I wouldn't know.

24 Q. Did that previous separation from the wider community,  
25 including the wider community of children, did that

- 1 impact at all on Quarriers children settling in at  
2 a local school?
- 3 A. I think it's bound to, because if you feel you're the  
4 only one in the class, you're perhaps a bit different --  
5 I also think they were very readily pointed out, at  
6 least in the initial stages. I think gradually, a lot  
7 of them did absorb in -- and the younger they were  
8 I think the more easily they were able to do that  
9 merging in.
- 10 Q. Elsewhere in your statement you make the comment that in  
11 effect what you're saying is that it wasn't just the  
12 children who were perhaps kept within the village model,  
13 it was the staff as well, and that might have affected  
14 staff too.
- 15 A. I think for some staff, I think it did. I think some  
16 found the village a refuge, a safe place, somewhere that  
17 they didn't particularly want to go out of. I think  
18 I quoted one example of meeting one of the cottage  
19 parents coming in through the main gates as I was  
20 leaving, and I stopped and had a chat and -- "Oh", she  
21 said, "I am so glad to be back". I said, "Where have  
22 you been?" and she said, "Bridge of Weir", which is  
23 about 3 miles down the road. She said, "I just can't  
24 wait to get back to the cottage".
- 25 For her, it was a place of security and I think

1           that's part of an emotional feeling that was not with  
2           every cottage parent, nowhere near it, but it must  
3           affect the children to some extent that she has within  
4           her care.

5           Q. Later in your statement, at paragraph 108, page 1692,  
6           when you're telling us about that, and you say that  
7           there were several who couldn't bear to leave Quarriers,  
8           even to go to the nearby village, you give your view  
9           that you felt that that bred something negative and  
10          damaging within Quarriers as a whole. Can you help us  
11          explain what point you're making here?

12          A. Yes, because I think somewhere else I make the statement  
13          about the same cottage parent being very hostile towards  
14          the local authority social workers, openly hostile, and  
15          I think it all creates a feeling of wanting to not admit  
16          people who are beyond the boundaries, but are wanting to  
17          keep things how they are, nice and cosy, within each  
18          cottage.

19          Q. In relation to the house parents' approach and how some  
20          were perhaps hostile to external people coming in, like  
21          social workers for example, you refer to a situation at  
22          page 1684 of your statement at paragraph 62. That's  
23          where you raised an issue with your line manager, and  
24          that would be Joe Mortimer. Is this the same --

25          A. I've got 63, not 62.

1 Q. Can you see it now?

2 A. Oh yes, yes.

3 Q. Obviously that's redacted, the name, but is that the  
4 same cottage parent you're referring to?

5 A. No.

6 Q. No, it's different?

7 A. It is different to the one who was hostile to the  
8 external social worker, yes.

9 Q. Okay. This is another situation where you tell us that  
10 you raised an issue with your line manager, who would be  
11 Joe Mortimer, about a cottage.

12 A. Mm-hm.

13 Q. And I think we know that it's a cottage run by Mr and  
14 Mrs **QAH/SPO** You tell us that they encouraged the  
15 children to call them mum and dad and you took the view  
16 that that wasn't appropriate and you expressed your view  
17 to Mr Mortimer. What was his response to that?

18 A. To start with, he made excuses for the cottage insofar  
19 as he said -- and I would have to agree with him -- it  
20 was a well-organised cottage and the children were not  
21 unhappy. But I said I felt it was inappropriate because  
22 they were not mum and dad and that they had a mum and  
23 dad, and a mum and dad who, for whatever reason, hadn't  
24 been able to care for them. So I just felt that  
25 emotionally and psychologically, it could have some

- 1           lasting detrimental effect.
- 2           Q. You tell us that the social workers also complained
- 3           about this.
- 4           A. I knew that from the fact that I attended some, not all,
- 5           of the social work team meetings and I was aware that
- 6           there had been an issue with social workers who also
- 7           found it inappropriate and had complained about it.
- 8           Q. You say that there was a particular response or reaction
- 9           from Dr Minto in relation to those complaints.
- 10          A. That again was reported at the social work team meeting.
- 11          Q. And that was that no internal social worker was to enter
- 12          their cottage any more; is that what you understood
- 13          at the time?
- 14          A. Yes, I did. That didn't exclude the local authority one
- 15          but, yes, it excluded the internal social workers.
- 16          Q. I think there was another situation that arose
- 17          in relation to a cottage you've already mentioned,
- 18          cottage 26, which you tell us about, and I think you
- 19          learned about that situation also at a social work team
- 20          meeting.
- 21          A. I did.
- 22          Q. If I could take you to that. You'll find your evidence
- 23          on that at page 1689. If we can scroll further down the
- 24          page. Can you explain what you learnt about cottage 26
- 25          and what was discussed at team meetings?

1 A. Could you inform me of the paragraph we're on, sorry?

2 Q. Right. You start to speak about this cottage at  
3 paragraph 93. At the foot of the page at paragraph 96,  
4 you mention who ran the cottage, cottage 26.

5 If we move over the page now to page 1690,  
6 paragraph 97, you explain that you never went into the  
7 cottage, you went to the door, but you were never  
8 invited in, but you then heard about things that  
9 happened in that cottage or you were told happened  
10 in that cottage.

11 A. Yes, that's correct.

12 Q. Can you tell us what you remember you were told?

13 A. Of the things that went on in 26, I think the one that  
14 comes most vividly to mind is that a child who'd done  
15 something wrong was made to stand on a stool, I think on  
16 the stairs, for a considerable length of time. This,  
17 I would have thought, was an inappropriate way of  
18 treating a child, particularly one who had regular  
19 seizures.

20 From what I heard in the meeting, it was my  
21 understanding that on occasions social workers had been  
22 in there when the children were shouted at and verbally  
23 abused for some misdemeanour, which, from the way it was  
24 presented at the meeting, would suggest that it was  
25 a little too way out for what had actually been done by

1 the child.

2 Q. You go on to tell us at paragraph 99 that it was your  
3 understanding from the meeting that it was  
4 Alf Craigmile's responsibility to deal with what was  
5 spoken about and to take it to Dr Minto and, as far as  
6 you knew, nothing was done and it was swept under the  
7 carpet. And then, in the next paragraph, you tell us  
8 about a man called Mike Laxton, who came in, and at  
9 paragraph 101 you say that:

10 "When Mike Laxton spoke with the remaining  
11 social workers towards the end, one of them said  
12 he wasn't happy about what had been happening in the  
13 cottage. The social worker had tried to raise issues  
14 before without results."

15 And:

16 "Mike Laxton told him to write his concerns about  
17 the treatment of children in a letter to Joe Mortimer  
18 and Dr Minto."

19 A. Yes. Can we go back to that first paragraph that we  
20 looked at?

21 Q. Is that paragraph 97?

22 A. I think that's a mistake I made in terms of not dealing  
23 with it when I had my statement to readdress because one  
24 happened considerably before the other.

25 So the team meeting that I attended where I learnt

1           about the lad standing on the stool happened  
2           considerably before I was aware from Mike Laxton that  
3           he had been reporting on that. I should have scored  
4           that out.

5           Q. No, not at all. So your understanding is issues were  
6           raised about children being put on the stool in  
7           cottage 26 and it wasn't for some time after that that  
8           you heard that Mike Laxton --

9           A. Nothing was done at the time is what I should have made  
10          clear. Yes, that's correct.

11          Q. But then later, and quite some time later, you heard --  
12          and I think you said it was Mike Laxton who told you  
13          about this?

14          A. Yes. He and I were one-offs in the place. We often  
15          used to meet to talk about issues and he used to use me  
16          as something of a sounding board at times. But he  
17          happened to mention that he had been responsible for  
18          getting some change in cottage 26.

19          Q. So the events in cottage 26 were matters that were being  
20          discussed in the social work office and they were being  
21          discussed amongst professionals involved with the  
22          children in Quarriers?

23          A. Yes.

24          Q. I would like to move on and ask you about another event  
25          that you can help us with. You'll find your reference



1 to that at page 1687. From paragraph 78 onwards, you  
2 tell us about a situation where a boy, who was about 15,  
3 who would come and study with you because part of your  
4 role was to provide tuition for children. He came to  
5 see you and one evening he was very upset about  
6 something.

7 A. Mm-hm.

8 Q. Can you tell us what happened there?

9 A. Well, he came because he had said to his cottage parents  
10 where he was going, and they or the cottage father had  
11 said something extremely rude and sexually offensive to  
12 him, which upset him greatly and he came and told me  
13 about it.

14 Q. You tell us at paragraph 80 the type of comment he made,  
15 that he repeated the comment and he told you that the  
16 cottage parent had said, "You are only going to get your  
17 hole", and it wasn't an expression that you were  
18 familiar with, but you took it to mean that he was  
19 accusing the child of some kind of sexual contact with  
20 you --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- and the child was upset and then quite angry about  
23 it.

24 A. He did, yes.

25 Q. You raised this with your line manager?

1 A. I did.

2 Q. And what happened after that?

3 A. Well, he wanted to impress upon me that **QFO** the

4 cottage parent, was somebody who would shoot his mouth

5 off and then regret it later, and he was loud-mouthed,

6 but he didn't feel that he wanted to raise an issue

7 about it at that stage. I thought that that wasn't

8 something which should be laid to rest, but he did say

9 he would -- he promised me that he would talk to the

10 cottage parent and I felt his handling of it was rather

11 weak.

12 The only way I got to know that he had done it was

13 when the lad actually came back to me himself and said

14 that the cottage parent had had a ticking-off about it.

15 I think that gives you another side of the cottage

16 parent, that he would be prepared to say that to the

17 lad.

18 Q. You tell us on the following page, page 1688, that you

19 were involved with a child who was leaving Quarriers to

20 be placed with foster parents.

21 A. Yes, I was -- yes, I've got it.

22 Q. And the child then made an allegation of, you say,

23 "being touched up" -- I assume you mean some form of

24 sexual touching --

25 A. Mm-hm.

1 Q. -- by his foster father.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. What happened in relation to that?

4 A. Well, the first person who knew about it was the local  
5 authority social worker, and the way I knew about it was  
6 that I had immediately had a phone call from the foster  
7 mother, absolutely distraught to think that this  
8 fostering was going so well and she couldn't believe  
9 that her husband would ever have done anything like  
10 that. But nevertheless, the little lad came back into  
11 Quarriers.

12 From that -- well, I did speak to Joe Mortimer about  
13 it and said that the foster mother wanted me to go out  
14 and talk with her, and I said, is that okay, he said  
15 yes, do that. So I had that one contact with her after  
16 [REDACTED] had been returned to Quarriers, and that's the  
17 last I ever had contact with them because the local  
18 authority social worker took over from there.

19 Q. At that time, in the context of an allegation of that  
20 nature being made, albeit it was reported to the local  
21 authority social worker, were you aware as to whether  
22 there was a child protection policy or any guidance or  
23 anything of that nature within Quarriers which would  
24 have given you guidance as to how to manage this  
25 situation?

- 1 A. I wasn't aware of such a policy.
- 2 Q. If we could move over the page to the next paragraph,  
3 paragraph 91 on page 1689, you make certain comments  
4 there about what cottage parents in Quarriers were  
5 saying. Can you explain that to us?
- 6 A. Yes. It's not very well expressed, I have to say, but  
7 when I attended reviews of individual children in  
8 Quarriers, the phrase that some cottage parents would  
9 use within a review would be, "But you know, he or she  
10 can always be very manipulative, they know how to play  
11 the system". It was a phrase that sat uncomfortably,  
12 but was used, I felt, not to believe necessarily -- to  
13 encourage one not to believe necessarily what the child  
14 was saying.
- 15 Q. Moving finally to page 1692, having spoken about at  
16 paragraph 108 what you've already told us, that what  
17 perhaps we might call the village model bred something  
18 negative and damaging within Quarriers as a whole, you  
19 go on to tell us at paragraph 110 that:
- 20 "[You] thought the idea to send children to external  
21 schools was probably a step in the right direction, to  
22 give them something outward looking."
- 23 Then at paragraph 111, you say that:
- 24 "Towards the end of [your] time in Quarriers, [you]  
25 found that Dr Minto and Mr Mortimer were rather weak

1 leaders as heads of an organisation and [you feel] the  
2 place went down under their lack of management. They  
3 made decisions of omission rather than commission."

4 You go on to explain that:

5 "They failed to take up issues that were brought to  
6 them and that encouraged bad practices to go on."

7 You say:

8 "They wanted Quarriers to appear as a warm, cosy  
9 village where everybody was happy and got along, but  
10 that was not the case."

11 You conclude that:

12 "It meant that serious concerns were on the whole  
13 evaded, avoided or dismissed."

14 Just what I want to ask is: that opinion you've  
15 expressed, is that an opinion that has been informed by  
16 some of the experiences that you've told us about today?

17 A. Yes, certainly. As I reflected on the six years that  
18 I had spent there, both Dr Minto and Mr Mortimer were  
19 extremely pleasant, genial people to work with, but the  
20 minute favouritism starts to operate in a residential  
21 complex where everybody really knows what is going on,  
22 it can be something of an insidious thing which starts  
23 some cracks to form -- which starts cracks forming and  
24 I think where you get cottage parents treated  
25 differently, that some don't have to put up with having

1 a Quarriers social worker going into the cottage, where  
2 others do, I just feel it starts to breed an unhealthy  
3 atmosphere and it isn't the way to make a secure  
4 background in which to bring up children.

5 MS RATTRAY: Thank you, Judy. I have no more questions for  
6 you.

7 LADY SMITH: Are there any outstanding applications for  
8 questions of this witness? No.

9 Judy, those are all the questions we have for you  
10 today. It remains for me simply to thank you for  
11 engaging with the inquiry in providing your written  
12 statement and coming along here today to elaborate on  
13 what you have already helped us with. That's of  
14 enormous assistance to me in the work that I have to do.

15 A. Thank you.

16 LADY SMITH: I'm now able to let you go with my thanks.

17 A. Thank you very much.

18 (The witness withdrew)

19 LADY SMITH: Yes, Ms Rattray.

20 MS RATTRAY: My Lady, that concludes the evidence for today.

21 Tomorrow, we will have two oral witnesses and hopefully  
22 some read-ins.

23 LADY SMITH: Thank you very much.

24 That's us for today. I will sit again at 10 o'clock  
25 tomorrow morning.

1 (4.15 pm)

2 (The hearing adjourned until 10.00 am  
3 on Thursday 15 November 2018)

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I N D E X

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8 STUART McKAY (sworn) .....1

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