

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

LWQ

Support person present: Yes

1. My full name is [REDACTED] LWQ [REDACTED]. My date of birth is the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] 1951. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I don't have much of a clue about my family life from when I was very young. I know I was born in Dundee that the family home was there and that I have a younger brother and sister. My brother [REDACTED] was born in 1953 and my sister [REDACTED] QLF [REDACTED] was born in 1954. I didn't actually know of them until later on at Quarriers when my sister was put in the same cottage as me.
3. I have old letters in the records I received from Quarriers that show correspondence between my father and Quarriers but I don't know much about him. I know he was a lousy father and his name was [REDACTED]. I've never known my mother, her name was [REDACTED]. I think she was about twenty one when I was born.

Quarriers Village, Bridge of Weir

General

4. I know from my records that I was taken from my paternal grandmother and a paternal aunt, to go into care at Quarriers. I have no recollection of my early years at

Quarriers but I know I was admitted in 1955 when I was three years old. If you were under a certain age you went to the Baby Home, then you moved on to the Toddlers Home, when you were about three to four.

5. I have no idea why I was taken from Dundee which is over 100 miles away from Quarriers. I was with [REDACTED] who was two and [QLF] who would have been a baby. I was in Quarriers from the age of three until I was fourteen.
6. Quarriers was like a village with maybe 48 big Victorian houses, which were called cottages. It had its own hospital, school, church, store, everything was there. It was all very self-contained. Groups of people would come to visit, it was like a utopia, or sounded like it was.
7. Some cottages were mixed and some were just boys or girls. The ages of the children would have been between five and fourteen. There were three baby homes that had names, I can't remember them now, but they were specifically for babies and toddlers, they weren't cottages.
8. The records that I have say I was in cottage 1 and then cottage 4, but I have no recollection of that. My earliest memory from Quarriers was when I went to cottage 20. I was seven or eight and I remember the housemother was Miss [QAQ] and the cottage auntie was Miss [QDA]. [QAQ] is dead now and [QDA] would have been in her early twenties back then. I'm not too sure of ages from back then as I was only a child. Miss [QDA] was just pure evil and everyone knew her, she had that reputation. She was seconded out to other cottages as well but she was meant to be there, as a cottage auntie, to help the housemother.
9. It was mixed, with both boys and girls. In our cottage there were fourteen of us. We all slept in rooms on the first floor. We had a girl's dormitory and an annexe off that for the housemother. There were about eight girls, aged between six and ten in our dormitory. There was another dormitory for the boys and a room for the older girls.

10. On the ground floor there was the housemother's parlour, the kitchen and a playroom. Then you went downstairs and there was a place with big huge baths in it and a door to an outside play area. The parlour was an old fashioned room, it was all neatly carpeted and was like a guest's room. We were only ever in there to be punished.
11. QLF came into cottage 20 later, when she was about seven and [REDACTED] was in a boy's cottage. We called each other brother and sister in the cottages but it was a few years before I even knew QLF was my actual sister, I was maybe nine. It was even later before I knew [REDACTED] was my actual brother because he was in cottage 23.
12. I remember I once waved at [REDACTED] when we were out walking to church. I'm not sure when that was, but I obviously knew then he was my brother. After church I got the biggest hiding ever for waving at him and I was told I was an orphan and he was not my brother. I was told all my brothers and sisters were in the cottage with me. That was from Miss QAQ
13. We had to call the housemother mummy and I suppose she was a mother figure but I did think I was an orphan for a while before I found out I had a father. I was always told I was an orphan and that I had no mother or father.
14. Once I was in cottage 20 I stayed there throughout and once QLF got there, she was there throughout as well.

Routine at Quarriers Village, Bridge of Weir

Mornings and bedtime

15. There was a bell that Miss QAQ rang to get us up in the morning. That was about 7:30 am, and then we would tidy the bed, fold the covers up and make sure they were perfect. Then we waited for Miss QAQ to come and check the beds.

16. Every morning, before breakfast, someone would have to learn and recite a bit from the bible. Miss **QAQ** would tell, whoever's turn it was, what they had to learn about 6:30 pm the night before, just after prayers. Then they had to memorize it and recite it the following morning in the dining room. If they made any mistakes they wouldn't get a breakfast. It could be as many as three verses. Lights went out at 8:30 pm, maybe a bit later for the older girls, so we had wee torches that we used under the covers to learn those verses.
17. I think Miss **QAQ** knew the bible off by heart. She had an aura about her, she could be very dominant and very strict but sometimes she could be so nice. She wasn't always bad.

Food

18. We said grace before every meal. A different person would always say it and pity help you if you got one word wrong. Miss **QAQ** would give you the belt on the hands or she would pull down your pants and smack you on the bare bum. That happened to me quite a few times. It happened to all the kids, all ages and in front of everyone.
19. We ate all our meals in the cottage, they were prepared by the older girls. Breakfast was horrible but if you didn't eat it, what they put down to you at breakfast would be served to you again at lunchtime. If you didn't eat that, it was served to you again at your evening meal. You could go a day and a half without food then, eventually, they would force feed you.
20. That happened to me, Miss **QAQ** would get older girls to hold you by the arms so you couldn't move, and then she would pinch your nose and force the food into your mouth. If you were sick, she would spoon your sick back into your mouth. She would tell us we should be grateful we were getting any food at all, as we were just orphans.

21. I never had to hold anybody's hand out, while they were force fed, that would have been worse. I don't know how I would have reacted if I had, but I suppose I would have done it or else I would have got punished.
22. Lunch was meat and potatoes, you always knew in advance what the weekly meals were going to be. I just hated liver, even the smell of it and I would run away when we had liver. I was force fed many times and I had to watch it happening to my sister as well. She was also held by the arms and force fed by Miss QAQ. It's not very nice somebody holding your nose and forcing food into you.
23. The meal plans were much the same in all the other cottages. I knew that from speaking to other kids and some of them were force fed as well.

Washing / bathing

24. We had baths in these two huge metal baths. We would go in three at a time and the older children or Miss QDA would help with the bathing. The bathing was from younger to older so if you were young you were lucky and got the clean water if you were older it would be dirty by your turn. There was no privacy it was all in the same bathroom.

Clothing / uniform

25. I remember we wore plastic sandals, a skirt and a jumper. We were clothed and there was even a drapery where you were given what you needed to wear. A lot of the clothes were hand me downs.
26. We had a school uniform, a gym slip and a blouse which was yours but otherwise the clothing was just what you were given. You didn't have a wardrobe or anything to change into from day to day. You could be wearing a dress one day and somebody else might be wearing it the next day. We were only dressed up for the photos and the visits once a month.

School / chores

27. School was fine, there were a couple of teachers that might throw a duster at you or give you the belt but I didn't mind school, except for the gym. I sat my Eleven Plus and if you passed it you got to move upstairs to the equivalent of High School. That was all within the Quarriers Village. I did pass my Eleven Plus and I enjoyed school.
28. We did weekly chores like polishing shoes, peeling potatoes for meals and scrubbing floors. We always knew what the chores were and they were changed about.

Religion

29. The place revolved around religion, it was a Church of Scotland home. Every Sunday morning we went to the Mount Zion church which was in Quarrier's. We cooked no food on a Sunday, all the food was prepared the night before.
30. After church we would take a walk up, through and around the whole village. Then we had to go to bible study in the afternoon and I also had choir practice on a Sunday night. Wednesday you had bible study again and you had the girl brigade. As I say everything was done around religion and I had no idea about religion.

Holidays and leisure

31. I remember a lovely man, Mr Hodge, who owned land at Turnberry and he offered up these wee chalets he had on his land. We went there every summer for holidays. I remember that was by the seaside and it was lovely.
32. We also had the Glasgow taxi drivers, they took us for a day to the seaside, I remember those trips. We went to Troon or Dunoon and they covered their taxis with balloons and streamers. That was a lovely day out, we got a shoebox with a stick of rock, a wee bag of sweets and a bag of Smith's crisps.

33. We had two play areas in our cottage, a big room inside and an outside area. We had our own personal lockers where we could keep drawing books and scraps. We also kept our Post Office savings book and diaries, and I remember I had a koala bear. We had books to read and we eventually got a television. It went in the main dining room and I remember watching Dr Who. I think I was about ten when the TV came in.
34. Sometimes it was good and we played with skipping ropes, played hopscotch and all those kind of things. After school we would get out to play and we would be with friends but the cottage was never home, it was never a place of safety. Sometimes you actually dreaded going back into the cottage.
35. We got pocket money and half went into a Post Office savings account. We would then buy some sweets at the store in Quarriers. You never had to leave Quarriers, in fact, I think the only time I did was when I ran away.
36. The friends I can still remember from Quarriers are [REDACTED] who died at Quarriers, [REDACTED]

LWR

Birthdays and Christmas

37. I was the only kid with [REDACTED] on Christmas Day. I don't remember ever getting a birthday present but Christmas was really good and I got a lot of things.
38. Miss [REDACTED] would ring the bell and we would go downstairs to see what Santa had brought you. There was a pillow case on your chair in the dining room and it was full of all different toys and things. There were lots because people donated things but most of it went into the playroom so they could be shared.
39. I remember asking for roller skates one year and getting them and I then a bike another year and I got that as well. I also got things like a diary and colouring books

so that was fine. It's strange because there were some good times and it's a shame they don't stay at the front of your mind.

40. I don't remember Christmas dinners, I just remember being in church and then getting the presents.

Visits / Inspections

41. They had a parent's day every month at Quarriers. For the twelve years I was there they used to always say to the children who didn't see parents, so me and my sister, if you had a wish what would it be? I always said the same thing, to see my daddy or my mummy. My sister would say the same. In all that time we didn't see our father. Well he may have visited once but I don't know, as far as I'm aware there was nothing. He would write to Quarriers and say he was coming to visit but he never showed up. I would watch other dads arriving to visit and wonder which one might be my daddy.
42. I remember being taken out sometimes but I can't remember why, who it was that took us out or where we went. Me and my sister and other girls would get taken out by these complete strangers, it was weird. They would just take us away for a weekend or a few days. It happened maybe five times. Twice I went with my sister and the rest I was on my own. It could have been completely innocent but it just seemed so strange.
43. I remember two of them, one was when I was about eight and I remember this huge big four poster bed. The other one I remember was a farm, I'm sure it was in Bridge of Allan. I have records from Quarriers that contain letters from people to them asking if they can be 'supplied' with children, for me as a child, for them to look after over a weekend or for a holiday. The names of the people are removed from those letters but they have written to Quarriers and they actually ask for specific ages and sexes of children and provide dates when they would be available to look after the children.

44. There was also Woman's Guilds or organisations like that that would visit Quarriers and be shown round. We would all have to dress up perfectly and stand looking pretty. The older girls would serve them tea and cakes then the visitors would make their donations and go away. The impression they wanted to give was how well the children were being looked after.
45. I don't remember anyone ever coming to inspect Quarriers and no one ever came and asked me how I was getting on.

Healthcare

46. There was a doctor and a dentist in Quarriers Village, there was even a hairdressers. Everyone had the same sort of bowl cut hairstyle, boys and girls.
47. I was given a physical examination twice or three times when I was coming into puberty. I was about thirteen and nothing was explained to me at all. I was stripped naked in front of the doctor, just me and him in an examination room. Something makes me think it was Dr Davidson, but I'm not sure.

Running away

48. As I said, I once ran away when we had liver because I hated it, just the smell of it and I hated being force fed it. Four of us just decided to run away from the cottage.
49. We got to a place called Foxbar but we started to get really hungry. We slept in a graveyard but finally we were caught by the police. We were all about ten years old. The police just took us back and never asked us anything. Miss **QAQ** belted us. I got smacked on my bare bum, **██████████**.
50. A second time we were caught by the police again and it was just the same as the first time. A third time I slept overnight in a rhododendron tree, it was my den because it was quite spacious, and it was within the grounds of Quarriers. I got punished every time I ran away, I always did.

51. Sometimes the punishment could be not getting a meal or not getting your pocket money but it was mainly physical.

Bedwetting

52. I was a bed wetter and a sleep walker, so my bed was moved further away from the doorway in case I walked out the door and fell down the stairs. I wet the bed from when I was about seven until I was about nine. It was Miss [QDA] who checked the beds. You would try and hide it but if you got caught you had to take the mattress outside, scrub it clean and then leave it against the wall.
53. Sometimes it wouldn't have dried by night-time when you put it back on your bed so you would just have to use a wet mattress. I believe that idea came from Miss [QDA] but that she learnt it from another cottage auntie, [QNZ]
54. [QNZ] was Miss [QDA]'s friend and she was really cruel to the kids in her own cottage. She got the kids to strip naked then take the mattress outside to scrub before taking a bath in cold water. [QNZ] did that then [QDA] copied her.
55. [QNZ] will still be alive. I saw her in the street one day a few years ago. I went up to her and asked her if she'd been at Quarriers and she said no. Then she said she had been and that she worked for Dr Davidson at the hospital. I said she didn't and then she said she was a secretary. She wasn't though, she was an actual cottage auntie. [QNZ] ended up [REDACTED]
56. Sometimes it was okay and you weren't punished for bedwetting but sometimes you were and that happened to me. Many girls wet the bed and some got worse than I got. Some of them got a good walloping across the bum, and then got the belt and still had to walk outside with the mattress. Some had to do that stripped naked and it didn't matter, boys or girls, all ages.

Abuse at Quarriers Village, Bridge of Weir

57. I have already spoken about a lot of abuse, it really just went on all the time. It's not just happening to you, it's having to watch it happen to other people.
58. I hate Miss QDA so much. She would take girls to her room and she would touch you, sexually, and then she would make you touch her. She did that with me and many other girls. We would have been aged between six and ten. I feel as if I'm as bad for doing that and for letting her do that. It happened a lot, too many times.
59. I remember when I was about nine I saw an older girl, about thirteen or fourteen, touching a wee boy where she shouldn't have been touching him, while he was standing on a bed. I can't remember his name but he was only about six.
60. The older girls used to get into your bed and you couldn't do anything, it was just one of those things. They would touch you where they shouldn't have been. They would be thirteen or fourteen and they would be with younger girls, maybe nine or ten.
61. The PE teacher at Quarriers was a man called Mr QDB. He wasn't old or young but I hated him so much. His little trick was to put his keys down your blouse then put his hand down inside your blouse and knickers and have a little fumble to get his keys.
62. I'd seen other girls being kept behind after gym to help tidy up the soft toys, bean bags and hula hoops, that went into a cupboard. One day he told me it was my turn to help tidy up. He came into the cupboard after me and locked the door. He took out his penis, and told me to touch it. He pulled down my pants and told me he liked little blonde girls and that I was his favourite.
63. Mr QDB touched me in between my legs and he said that when I grew up I'd be quite excited by seeing what he had in his hand. That was the first time. It happened

quite a few times, he would play with himself and make things happen to himself. I don't like to talk about it. I was just eight or nine years old when that started and it happened about seven times over a period of about a year and a half. It wasn't just me though, it happened to other girls as well.

64. I do remember one or two other girls talking, after he left, saying the same thing about the keys and the fumbles in the cupboard.
65. He once went to grab my sister in between her legs and she fell on a beam in the gym. She split her mouth open, hitting it off the beam, while she was trying to get away from him. They wrote that QLF had been involved in an accident in the gym but she hadn't, she was trying to get away from that horrible man. It wasn't long after that, Mr QDB wasn't around anymore.
66. My sister was taken to the Elise hospital in Quarriers after that fall as she had smashed in her front teeth. While she was waiting to get it fixed the gap in her teeth started to close so then she had to have her teeth broken again to put in a plate. That was all covered up because all it says in her records is that she had an accident in the gym.
67. In fact when my sister went to the hospital for that fall, she told the doctor that Mr QDB had went to touch her in between her legs and that's how she had fallen, trying to get away from him. I think it was Dr Davidson, he was the doctor we always saw.
68. The first time I went back to look round Quarriers with my pal, LWR we met another girl who was at the home when we were there. So we went round Quarriers together and she went to the cottage she was in but she didn't come back so we went round to find her and she was standing with her arms against a window ledge crying.
69. She said to us that many a time she used to look out that window and pray someone would look in and see what he was doing to her. That was cottage 24 and she was

talking about her house parent, Mr QDC he and his wife stayed in that cottage.

was the same age as us, and that was the exact same cottage that LWR was abused in.

70. She turned to me and said I had to face up to what happened to me at the school. She knew about the school, her sister was abused at the school, she told me and I know about another eight girls Mr QDB abused. I can only think of who was one of my friends, and she also told me.
71. I have shown you a copy of a photograph There are five children pictured and two of them are me and my sister. You can see the girls have white gloves on and their hands are clasped to the front while the boys are both standing with their hands behind their backs. That's how we were told to stand.
72. My sister has her hands to the back, like the boys, she was standing the wrong way. I had to watch my sister get a beating from Miss QAQ for that. It was in the cottage, there was a man there who was something to do with the photograph, but my sister got belted for that. Every time I look at that picture all I think about is my poor sister.
73. It was so false to make it look like such a perfect place, with us all being so well looked after. I only remember one of the boys in the picture, he was called . Me and my sister were often used as poster girls, maybe because we had no actual parent visiting us and therefore had no one to tell what Quarriers was actually like.
74. I was born with and when I was in Quarriers they decided that I needed to have . I had surgery to stretch the bones and then I had skin grafted onto them from my stomach. I always felt they were trying to make me look normal. It was like I was deformed.

75. I must have been about five or six when I had the operation. I remember going back and forward to Yorkhill Hospital and I remember having a big plaster thing on my [REDACTED] for a long time. When it was finished and I got to see my [REDACTED] I would rather they'd left it alone. To me it's hideous. What gives them the right to say what's normal? I'm still suffering because of that, it' was so cruel and it was all just to keep their image.
76. When it came to the photographs you had to wear [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] So they forced these hard plastic [REDACTED] things [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] so [REDACTED] I could stand proper. That was always
so sore when they did that because they were pushing them down [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
77. It says on my records something like 'has abnormalities: deformed and non-functional [REDACTED]'.
78. I often thought of myself as being abnormal because they made such a big issue of it. Nobody else around me had anything like that wrong with them. They made me feel like I wasn't whole, I was broken, I wasn't like all the other boys and girls who had proper [REDACTED].
79. I wasn't called anything by adults but children are cruel and I did get called [REDACTED] or things like that. They would say cruel things. Miss [REDACTED] QDA would point it out and say I'd never be able to do certain things and that I wasn't normal but other than that she didn't make a big issue out of it.
80. Miss [REDACTED] QAA had one day off a week, I'm sure it was a Thursday, and Miss [REDACTED] QDA was left in charge. A bell was rung when Miss [REDACTED] QAA came back and we all had to line up, from the smallest to the biggest. Miss [REDACTED] QAA would ask if anyone had misbehaved. Miss [REDACTED] QDA always said yes and then we would all get smacked on our bare backsides, one by one. We hadn't done anything and she knew we hadn't.

Reporting of abuse at Quarriers Village, Bridge of Weir

81. I once told Miss QDA that the older girls were getting in our beds and touching us. She washed my mouth out with a bar of carbolic soap and told me that I'd go to hell. I didn't tell anyone else because I didn't want my mouth washed out with soap. She was so horrible.
82. I also know my sister, QLF, told Dr Davidson at the Elise Hospital that she had fallen and hurt her face while trying to get away from Mr QDB as he had tried to touch her in between her legs. I don't know what happened as a result of that.
83. There was a main office but if you went there and complained about anything, you were a liar and you were told to be more grateful. I didn't report anything after what Miss QDA did to me with the soap. When you're a child you just think it's normal at that age, you know nothing else. And you've nothing to compare it to.
84. There is no way Miss QAQ couldn't have known what was going on. That was the way of life and there was no one to report anything to. I don't think she was involved in anything sexual but just because of the way it happened and things that were going on at the time, you couldn't not know.
85. I have never reported any of the abuse I suffered at Quarriers to the police.

Leaving Quarriers Village, Bridge of Weir

86. Before we left Quarriers, Mr Dunbar, who was a head person at Quarriers, and isn't related to Miss Dunbar, took me to see my father, step-mother and their children. I remember there was no emotion from my father and I felt I didn't know him. A few days later we were dumped on them.
87. Mr Dunbar knows dad didn't want us, he'd never visited us in all those years and Mr Dunbar had written to him again and again asking him to visit. Those letters are in

the records I have. I think the real reason we went back to my dad was because dad owed Quarriers £900.

88. My dad had previously written to Quarriers. Those letters are in my records as well, saying he wanted us to be adopted. That must have been when I was about eight or nine. He asked them a few times to put us up for adoption.
89. It all happened very suddenly. We were told we were going to see our daddy, we were bundled into a car and we left. I never got a chance to say cheerio to LWR or any of my friends.

Life after being in care

90. Dad was really nice in front of Mr Dunbar but the minute Mr Dunbar left, my dad took every single thing we brought back from Quarriers. All our toys, possessions and money from our Post Office account. He showed us our bed which had a broken spring and we had duffle coats for blankets.
91. At mealtimes me, my brother and sister had to sit in the hall while dad and his family sat at the table. I had to get a job and I wasn't always going to go to school.
92. My dad married my stepmother when I was seven, her name was [REDACTED]. I only knew they were married once I went to live with them. I was fourteen when we went back to my dad's. He didn't want us, his family was his new wife and their two children and she was pregnant again at that time. Those were bad times.
93. I was out working as soon as we were back with dad. I was in the potato factory from 5:00 am then I'd have to get back to the house to get me and my brother and sister ready for school. I then worked in the local grocers in the evenings. I made the meals for everyone at night as well. Sometimes I'd get a few potatoes from the factory and we'd have them for tea.

94. My father hated us, he didn't want us but he needed us to get the bigger house which Quarriers helped him get. He was just using Quarriers.
95. I had passed my Eleven Plus but after that I got no qualifications. It was many years before I got any more exams.
96. Dad was always drunk, he would bring his pals round and sit me and my sister on their knees. They would bounce us up and down and I know now, as an adult, that they were getting pleasure from that. There was no exposure they were getting enjoyment out of it.
97. We only saw Mr Dunbar twice after we went to my dad's. He never asked once how we were doing at my dads. We actually ran away from my father's once to go back to Quarriers, how sad is that?
98. I remember when I was back at my dads and I was about fourteen or fifteen my dad and step mum would go out and get drunk. Then they would come in and shout on my sister to make them a cup of tea. I would stop her and say he could make his own cup of tea. My dad got mad once and threw me across the room, splitting my face.
99. I went to the people next door, they were really nice, and the man told my dad that if he did it again he would call the police. I got to know their son, who was ten years older than me and he asked me to marry him. I said yes right away, and this sounds so wrong, but I saw it as a way of getting away from my father.
100. So I was married at seventeen, to the first man that said 'I love you'. I was going to have a house of my own and I didn't know what marriage or love or sex was. Nobody had told me. So when I got married I couldn't have sex, the very sight of a man's privates was too much. I was married about two and a half years before I could have sex and that was all because of what happened to me at Quarriers.

101. It was a difficult marriage and we had a trial separation. Then when I was in my twenties I had my two daughters and my two sons but I eventually split up with my husband when I was in my thirties.
102. My son [REDACTED] when he was only nineteen, my sister's [REDACTED] and my brother's [REDACTED]. It's like we were being punished as children and then being punished again as adults.
103. I met another guy but he was abusing me physically and sexually, robbing me and cheating on me. Then I had a stroke when I was about [REDACTED] and I spent six months in hospital. I became housebound but I was determined I was going to get strong, get better and throw him out, and I did. That was about ten years ago now.
104. I didn't report that violence to the police, I didn't tell anyone. My son would have lost his job in the army if I'd told him, and he'd reacted, but he knows now and understands why I didn't say anything.
105. I love poetry and writing poems. I love reading and I did go back to college when my children were older and at school. I got my English and maths and then I went on and studied psychology at Dundee University.

Impact

106. I have mentioned some things but I do think, could I or should I have said something to stop the abuse happening, especially to other children and to my sister. There was just no one to turn to. I feel so bad. I can't help but wonder if it was something I had done that made Mr [REDACTED] QDB pick me. I feel as if it's my fault, even now.
107. As a child you know others are going through the same as you, so you think it's normal. Now, as an adult, I keep thinking, if I had just spoken up, why didn't I speak up?

108. There is no doubt that Quarriers failed us, they failed so many. They took us from a man I didn't know and who didn't want us and then they dumped us back with him after all those years. You don't realise but you carry all the things that happened to you in that place for the rest of your life.
109. It impacted on my children as well, from me as their mother. I was always very touchy feely with my kids and there was never ever an issue over food. They could eat whatever they wanted, whenever they wanted, and I never made an issue over meals. I never wanted anyone to face or go through what I went through. That was horrendous.
110. I'm the faddiest eater you could ever get. I have my pudding first, before I have my meat course, I couldn't eat a whole meal and I don't like eating in company. I tend to stick to snack foods.
111. It has affected my whole life, you never lose that vulnerability. You always think that if something's going good, something bad will happen right behind that. I wasn't taught or prepared for life outside, as an adult. Quarrier's taught me nothing about married life. I didn't have any self-confidence and I didn't have any tools to cope with the outside world.
112. I'm proud of my children, my son went into the army and fought in Iraq, I have a daughter who teaches salsa dancing and brings up her own children and a foster child who [REDACTED] and my other daughter is an accountant. How can you not love your children, that's what I used to wonder about my parents?
113. I first met [REDACTED] from Future Pathways about a year ago. She came to see [REDACTED] LWR [REDACTED] and I said then that I'd never be able to do what I'm doing now, in giving you a statement. Other than my involvement now, with Future Pathways, I've not had any counselling or assessments. I'm not part of any of the survivor groups.
114. Quarriers wanted everyone to be the perfect child and to behave in a perfect way. I'm angry about [REDACTED], what gave them the right to think I was abnormal. No one

has the right to change you. I don't know if they've done anything to my health that's affected me physically in later life.

115. I'm epileptic, I have degenerative disc disease and I've just been tested for Multiple Sclerosis. I take medication for those conditions and for pain. I also have a heart problem, a condition called Raynaud's, so I go to the hospital every three months and get attached to a port for five days. They're trialling me with other drugs for that just now.

Records

116. I only applied for and received records from Quarriers about three years ago. My sister, [QLF], has hers as well but she only had about six pages and just threw them away. My records were just full of stuff about my father and Quarriers. There was nothing about me. I therefore contacted Quarriers again and I went there only last week and got more records from them about me and about my sister.
117. I can tell you that the records I got from them the second time were very different from the ones I got the first time. I now have much more, so I don't know what that was about. I do feel they were acting in a very guarded manner for some reason.
118. I was at a meeting last week at the Quarriers main office to do with missing headstones and I saw boxes and boxes of records. They told me there were many more that were still in storage. I got very few papers so there must be many more.
119. I mentioned [REDACTED] earlier, who died at Quarriers, it was when she took an epileptic fit. My sister saw her getting buried in their cemetery but there's no record of her being there and there's no marker in the cemetery either. There was also a baby that died, that choked in its cot, but I don't know if it was buried there or not.
120. I've read out a letter to you that was in my records. Apparently I wrote it when I was nine and wrote it to my dad. I didn't write this letter. I talk about him having little ones

and I didn't know that he had children until I got out. I never wrote to him so I find that letter very suspicious. I would never have called his new wife mummy, so I am very suspicious of that letter and why it was written. I have no recollection of ever receiving any letter from my dad and I didn't ever write to him.

Hopes for the Inquiry

121. It's wrong to treat people the way we were treated at Quarriers. It should never happen. I think you've got to treat vulnerable children and adults with respect. You've got to make sure that when they are in care they're treated properly and respectably.
122. When they get taken out and go back home there should always be a follow up that is without warning. People should be able to just turn up at somebody's house and make sure the children are ok. It should be children and family first, always trying to keep the family together.
123. Now, it's all down to money, you get money for taking kids into foster care and the council also gets money for every child they foster. That's using children, it went on in my day and it still goes on today. Quarriers were charging parents and donations were being made, but it wasn't a charity, that was all wrong. I ended up feeling like I was a piece of garbage.
124. There should always be a back-up, someone independent that can come in every now and again. Not always the same person but someone that would believe you and care and that you could safely tell about things, knowing they would act on it. That would have been a big help. All through my time at Quarriers no one believed me, or any of the children, and that's why I never spoke about it.
125. I have no idea if anyone ever said anything about Mr QDB but there were quite a lot of girls that he sexually abused. After the incident with my sister he just disappeared, all I know is that he went on to teach PE at ██████████ High School.

126. A year ago I said I could never do this, and even on my way here today I felt like turning the taxi round. However, I'm so relieved and proud of myself for coming here. I don't feel ashamed anymore. I just hope it's helped the Inquiry and that it might help other people to come forward, who've suffered at Quarriers. I know there are a lot of other people.
127. I'm in my sixties now but there are people in the forties now that were abused at Quarriers, so there are a lot of people. I know a lot of the abusers are now dead, but the voices of the victims have still got to be heard. The abuse has got to stop, we know it's going on with children in care and we, the oldies, have got to speak up and tell our stories because the younger ones won't speak up.

Other Information

128. I know Quarriers sent a lot of children to Canada and Australia. I know a woman, [REDACTED] who I mentioned earlier, who was badly abused at Quarriers and is now in Australia. I'm not sure when that happened, it could have been from care or it could have been later in life.
129. I also know of a [REDACTED] and his brothers who were all sent away to Australia when they were staying at Quarriers. He wrote a book, I think it was called [REDACTED] He's still in Australia, I'm sure. There were many children shipped off to Australia and Canada from Quarriers.
130. There is a woman, [REDACTED] who deals with Canadian children who were in care at Quarriers. Her grandmother told her she had been in Quarriers as a child so [REDACTED] then reached out and is a national point of contact for Quarriers child migrants.
131. I've talked about my close friend, [REDACTED] LWR he was a boy I got to know at Quarriers. We grew up together, he's about my age and he was a kind of boyfriend. We lost contact but he found me about five years ago through Facebook. We're

really good friends now, it's not a physical relationship, we just have a friendship and a good understanding of what we've both been through. We look after each other.

LWR has also been in contact with the Inquiry to give a statement.

- 132. I remember [redacted] and I went to the graveyard at Quarriers a few years ago and I noticed about eighty gravestones were missing. I made enquiry and found a video that shows the graveyard with all these gravestones. Nobody seems to know why but all those gravestones were suddenly missing. They were all for children that had died while they were living at Quarriers and there's no doubt they were deliberately removed. The deaths were from the forties right up to the sixties.
- 133. [redacted] and I decided to campaign to have the graves replaced. Quarriers have plans of the original graves and are helping replace all those graves.
- 134. [redacted] and I campaign on behalf of [redacted] to help other people, who've been abused, to come forward. We try to recommend all people to Future Pathways. We have talked with Quarriers, we want to work with them not against them, about the headstones and records. Quarriers are genuinely horrified with what happened and are now doing their best to help.
- 135. I have no objection to my witness statement being published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed..... **LWQ**

Dated..... 22.5.2018