

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

Johanna BRADY

Support person present: Yes

1. My name is Johanna Brady. My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1952. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Overview of employment history and training

2. I studied maths and computer science at Stirling University before changing to psychology and sociology. I then had a period when I was unwell and I decided not to go back to university. I decided I wanted to pursue a career in social work. My Uncle Alec was a social worker and he suggested that working in residential care would be a good way to get experience in that field.
3. In early 1972, I was employed as depute house mother in cottage 32 at Quarriers, which was the hostel for sixteen to eighteen year olds. It was quite an experimental unit at that time. The house parents were [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] QFX who had two young daughters when I joined them.
4. I went into residential care to get experience before I did social work training. That was always known by Quarriers. I got the chance to work in the social work department there as an unqualified social worker. From 1975 to 1977, I was seconded by Quarriers to go to Robert Gordon University and study for my Certificate of Qualification in Social Work (CQSW). There was a funding stream through the Scottish Government, or equivalent at that time, so I did my training, got my salary and was expected to go back to Quarriers afterwards.

5. When I left Quarriers in the summer of 1979, I went to Newfield Assessment Centre in Johnstone. It was a new facility. Even after my social work qualification, I always knew that the focus of my work was going to be children. It was a different experience, but the most awful experience. I didn't last there very long. As I was having a difficult time at work, my sister, Eileen's husband was killed in an accident. It made us all reassess what we were doing.
6. I was out of work for about three months. One of my friends saw an advert in the Glasgow Herald, looking for a depute at a combined nursery in Perth. The nursery was funded and managed by both education and social work. It was ahead of its time in that the head was a teacher and the depute's post was a social work post. There were two teachers employed by the education department and the nursery nurses were employed by the social work department.
7. The nursery was open fifty weeks a year from 7.30 in the morning to 6 o'clock at night. It only closed for two weeks in July. It took priority children from the old areas of priority treatment, which were defined by central and local government as areas of disadvantage. A proportion of places went to working parents. My remit included pre-admission home visits, all the liaison with the local social work department, the direct work with parents and supporting the training of the nursery nurses and social work students on placement.
8. I was then appointed as the head of quite an old fashioned day nursery in Perth. My job was to try and move the staff on and get the staff training up to scratch. The traditional day nursery was due to close within a year and be replaced by a brand new family centre. The day nursery provided day care for working parents and nursery places to families referred by social work. Teh When I started there, the nursery nurses were still in uniform and called each other by their surnames. I'd come from quite a forward thinking place, so it was a backward step.
9. Before the new nursery opened, I got another job as pre-school adviser to the social work department in Aberdeen City. I worked closely with the social workers and

managed the six day nurseries, which were going to be changing through time to more family centred work.

10. In 1985 or 1986, there was a big move in Strathclyde to revamp early education and childcare. All early years provision was going to be under the umbrella of education. They were developing what they called community nurseries. In 1989, I was appointed as the head of the very first community nursery in the Strathclyde region. It worked with children with priority and special needs based on a 52 week per annum provision. It combined nursery education, day care and support to disadvantaged children and parents.
11. In that project, I had one nursery that took 0 – 5 year olds, another that took 3 – 5 year olds and a family centre. One of the main thrusts of that community nursery model was that there would be a mix of professions in the work place. Over the three units, we had social workers, health visitors, nursery nurses and youth community workers. Because it was in an area of priority treatment, we took local women who had no qualifications and got them on the road to training.
12. There was a lot of interest in that model, not just within Scotland but throughout the UK and internationally. There was a huge piece of research carried out by Glasgow University. At the end of five years' funding, there were big changes to areas of priority treatment funding in Strathclyde. The funding streams changed. I had a big project to split it up into three units. I was then managing one of the nurseries, which was the biggest one.
13. In education in Ayr division, they were opening another brand new nursery. I moved to that to open it, which was the same model as the other nurseries I'd had before. During that period, I was seconded for two years to be an adviser to the Scottish Government on early years. From 1999 to 2001, I was the lead officer in an initiative called the early years good practice initiative. It was my job to go around Scotland, identifying areas of good practice and then sharing that good practice through conferences, workshops and networking.

14. After my secondment, I returned to North Ayrshire Council and returned to the nursery where I was head. I was also out two or three days a week, working with the Council on development. A new job was created, which was child care strategy manager. It was about developing services in the Council to meet childcare needs in the broadest sense. I had responsibility for all the under three provision, all the liaison with social work over individual children and policies for the early years strategy and child protection. I was the author of North Ayrshire Council's early years strategy and parenting strategy. I held that post until I retired in 2011.

Quarriers Village, Bridge of Weir (1972 – 1979)

Recruitment and first impressions

15. The job at Quarriers was my first, other than Saturday jobs and jobs whilst I was at university. The post was advertised in the Glasgow Herald or the Evening Times newspaper. I applied and was interviewed by [REDACTED] QFX/SPO and Joe Mortimer. I can't remember whether Joe was the superintendent or the deputy of Quarriers at that time. The interview was very informal. I had no qualifications so it was really just about what I could bring to the job and what I wanted to get out of the job. I was quite clear that I wanted to get some experience before I followed a career in social work.
16. I can't remember being asked to provide references. I might have got one from the university, but I was twenty so I had just had Saturday jobs. I know a lot of the other cottage aunties came with references from ministers, because of Quarriers' church connections. I had no childcare experience at all.
17. I was the only depute house mother or aunty, as they were called, to be interviewed in that way. Ordinarily, the depute house mothers or aunties were the responsibility of the domestic supervisor. She was responsible for the cleaners and the recruitment of the aunties. A lot of the aunties came from the islands and the domestic supervisor interviewed them, so it was quite an innovation for me to be interviewed in that way.

18. My first impression of Quarriers was how big it was. I didn't know much about it before I went. The first time I saw it was the first day I went for my interview. I got the train to Bridge of Weir and the bus to Quarriers. I was interviewed in the main office, which is on the right hand side as you enter through the gates. QFX took me up the main drive to cottage 32. He was explaining where things were. It was massive.
19. I remember thinking what a nice couple QFX and [REDACTED] were. They seemed to be quite modern in their approach. They had been the cottage parents at cottage 3. They had obviously applied for this job, to work with teenagers, so it was all quite new.
20. There was a swimming pool and a games hall made of corrugated iron. There were baby homes, the hospital, the epileptic centre and the farm at the far end of the road. After I took up my post, I got to know about the drapery and the food store and how they all worked with the cottages. Quarriers had its own social work department and at that point there were a couple of workers in it.

Training

21. When I first arrived, [REDACTED] explained my role to me. That was based on her experience as a house parent in terms of routine. There was no written guidance or staff handbook. There was no induction. I went straight into the job and followed instructions. I didn't receive any training. As things evolved, [REDACTED] and I used our own money to access some courses. They were mostly health education courses that we would go on. It was to help us in terms of group discussions with the young people.
22. [REDACTED] and QFX were members of a hostels group in the Glasgow area. Salvation Army and possibly Aberlour were members. It met once every couple of months. They would visit other hostels and talk about their experiences of working with young people. I never got to go to them. At one point, QFX was also doing the residential childcare certificate course at Langside College.

23. When I worked at the hostel, there was a couple who had applied to become house parents. I think their names were the Colvins. They'd been interviewed and accepted. They came to work with us for a couple of weeks and then spent a couple of weeks in another cottage. It was really just shadowing house parents before they were allocated their own cottage. I think that was the training model.
24. When I moved to work at the social work department, there was a Renfrewshire social work lunch club. It was held in the big hall in Quarriers and there was always a speaker who came along. I can remember Norman Dunning, who worked for RSPCC, making a big impression on me. He was responsible for setting up the Overnewton Centre in Glasgow. Attendance at the lunch club was optional. It wasn't open to everybody at the village. I only got to go when I was part of the social work department. There was no training or raising of awareness about child protection.

Staff arrangements

25. I was accountable to QFX and [REDACTED]. They were accountable to Joe Mortimer. The social work department fitted somewhere in between, but without any specific management responsibilities. When I first arrived, George Gill worked quite closely with Joe Mortimer. They were trying to move things on. I think George was relatively new when I was at the hostel. At that time, Doctor Davidson was at the top of the tree before Jim Minto arrived.
26. I was appointed as depute house mother and then we were joined by another woman who came from London, Dymphna Coveney. Quarriers took lots of volunteers through some kind of volunteer organisation. Dymphna's experience was office work, but she wanted to do some voluntary childcare. She arrived around the same time as me. The other depute house mothers in cottage 32 were Veronica Callan and Ann Morrell. Veronica arrived after Dymphna left but overlapped with me. Ann worked with Veronica after I moved out.

27. Quarriers took police cadets on work placements. I think it was part of their training. We had a couple of them at the hostel. There were also two cleaners who came in every day.
28. I was a live in staff member. In the other cottages, the cottage aunties didn't live in the cottage where they worked. There were aunties' cottages, where they went after they'd finished their shifts. QFX [REDACTED] and Dymphna lived on the premises as well. If we had police cadets, they lived in one of the aunties' cottages.
29. My day off would start at 1 o'clock one day, returning at 8 or 9 o'clock the following night. That allowed me to go back and visit my mum and family. [REDACTED] and QFX [REDACTED] day off was from 8 o'clock in the morning till 10 o'clock at night. When I first started, an older lady came in to be with me on [REDACTED] and QFX [REDACTED] day off, QAQ [REDACTED]. She seemed really old and set in her ways. I didn't take to her. We were poles apart in terms of our philosophy. In the hostel, we were known to the children as QFX [REDACTED] Johanna and Dymphna. QAQ [REDACTED] was very strict with the children.
30. When QAQ [REDACTED] came in, she took responsibility for the cooking. It was awful. [REDACTED] was quite a good cook. QAQ [REDACTED] wouldn't let me help. She saw herself as being there to meet the food needs of the children. She wasn't interested in any other kind of engagement with the young people at all. I think QAQ [REDACTED] had been an aunty in one of the cottages. There were a number of older women who still lived in Quarriers and filled gaps when people were on holiday. Once Dymphna joined the team and we were seen as competent, we happily managed without QAQ [REDACTED].

Residents of cottage 32

31. The teenagers were just coming in as I arrived. The number of residents varied, but it was designed to hold sixteen to eighteen children, boys and girls. For a time, one of the rooms set aside for the children was used by Nancy Wiltshire, an American woman who came and worked in the social work department. She lived in cottage 32 for a while, but she didn't have any responsibilities for the children.

32. The idea of the hostel was that it was a preparation for independence. Some of the children were still fifteen and at school. One of the boys at the hostel, [REDACTED] was already sixteen and worked at the farm. [REDACTED] was an apprentice mechanic. There was a woman called [REDACTED] who worked at the drapery. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] were the original residents of cottage 32 before the extension was built.
33. The previous year had been Quarriers centenary and money had been raised in the course of that year which funded the hostel. It was an existing cottage which had an extension put onto it. In the extension, the boys were on the top floor and the girls were downstairs. There was a long corridor and my bedroom was in the middle of the top corridor. There were four rooms upstairs and three double rooms downstairs. One of the rooms downstairs was a kitchen and living room.
34. I don't know how or why the children were selected to go into the hostel. Those decisions had been made before I arrived. As children moved out and vacancies became available, there would be discussion about who the next children would be. If a child went out, a child came in. Sometimes, it could be that a teenage girl was creating some difficulty in a cottage and it was felt she would better out of the cottage and with her own peer group. When a transfer took place, [REDACTED] and QFX would meet with the individual and their house parents. Any records for the child were passed on.
35. I don't think there was a firm rule about which children entered the hostel. I think there would have been discussion within the social work department and George Gill would decide. George and [REDACTED] QFX were very close. They were probably on the same kind of wave length in terms of trying to move things forward for the children. Some house parents held onto fifteen and sixteen year olds and others were pleased to see the back of them. I don't think there was a firm rule. Children talk so they knew when there was a place coming up. The children who wanted to move would be at the hostel, asking who was going to get the next place.
36. In my time working at the hostel, the young people living there were: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Children's routine at cottage 32, Quarriers Village

Mornings and bedtime

37. Rather than large dormitories for six to eight children, all the young people shared a room and some of them had a single room. There was one corridor for boys and one corridor for girls. In the old part of the building, some of the young people who were working had a single room. It was quite a different style of living for a lot of these teenagers, who had been brought up in Quarriers. These young people had been part a group of fourteen children of mixed ages and it took a while for things to bed down. We had to get the teenagers up for school or work and feed them.

Mealtimes/food

38. The staff ordered provisions and cooked the food. We fed the children breakfast. The ones who were at school came home to the cottage for lunch. The ones who were out at work had access to the food to make food for work, if they wanted. We cooked the children's evening meal.
39. There was generally a choice of food for the children to eat. Nobody was ever forced to eat. Some of them had come from quite strict cottages, so to have that element of choice or to be able to leave stuff on their plate was a big thing. Some of them spoke about getting their meals cold later on if they didn't eat in the cottages. There were varying degrees of quality in the food they had been given in the cottages. Some felt that the children of the house parents got a better selection of food than the Quarriers children.

40. In the evening, we put food into the kitchen for the young people to prepare their supper. There were eggs, cheese, cereal and that kind of stuff. [REDACTED] and I did do some basic cooking with them as well, for those who were interested.

Laundry

41. We had a laundry room with two machines, a drier and a pulley. In the cottages, the children had no responsibility for their own laundry. All of their clothes went to the laundry. Once they moved to the hostel, the only thing that went to the laundry were the sheets and towels. The children were responsible for their own laundry.

School

42. Some of the children didn't go to Quarriers School. Some went to school in Linwood and some of the more academic boys went even further afield. I think it might have been to Paisley Grammar School. The school in the village didn't have the best reputation. I don't think it stretched the children as much as it could have done.

Religious instruction

43. The children in the cottages had no element of choice about going to church on a Sunday. QFX and [REDACTED] were quite clear that the children in the hostel were independent in that regard. If they wanted to go to church, they could go to church. [REDACTED] and QFX went occasionally, but it wasn't rigid. Some of the teenagers in the hostel had a long lie on a Sunday.
44. I remember [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] would go to church on a Sunday. They went back down to cottage 17 and went to church with QNZ [REDACTED] their former house mother. Some of the cottages really did quieten down on a Sunday. It was all about church, lunch, quiet time and bible time. Even in the time I was there, that started to change.

Healthcare

45. There was a full time doctor at Quarriers. There was a hospital with a couple of beds, which the children were in occasionally. When I first started, the hospital had beds for overnight patients, but I think that stopped. There was the epilepsy centre further up the road, which provided medical care. I think there was a dental surgery, if not a dentist there all the time.

Visits/inspections

46. George Gill dropped into the hostel regularly. His home was out with Quarriers. He was back in the village at least once a week at night time. He drove around, chatted to the children and went to the sports hall. He knew quite a lot about the children. He was very friendly with [REDACTED] QFX [REDACTED]. He would pop into the hostel, have a coffee with [REDACTED] QFX and me and [REDACTED] QFX and George would go for a pint. George did pop downstairs and see the young people.
47. Margaret Orr was the social worker for the girls and Alistair Murdoch worked with the boys in the hostel. It was really their job to assist the children with the transition from Quarriers and obtaining employment, but [REDACTED] QFX [REDACTED] and I got involved as well. They did visit the hostel, but there was no regularity or pattern to it. I don't think they had any idea of what was going on in the young people's lives. When I moved to the hostel to work in the social work department, I wasn't clear what people did in the social work department because I had no role models or expectation of what it was that I had to do. The Quarriers social workers weren't particularly pro-active at that time.
48. There was no real supervision of the hostel. We did have lady visitors, but they were the only independent people who came in. I think they saw the punishment books. They certainly looked at the menu books and the visitors' book. I think the lady visitors came once a year or every six months. They had a look around, a cup of tea and a bit of a chat. They came during the day when the young people were at school. It was about the structure of the building and basic things, not the level of care being provided to the children.

49. There weren't many visits from local authority social workers. Some of the children in the hostel were in Quarriers because their parents had placed them there. Because of the age of the children in the hostel, some of them wanted to make contact with their families so we initiated some contact with social workers. Otherwise, local authority social workers tended to link with the social work team in Quarriers rather than directly with the cottages. If a social worker visited, the child could be with the social worker alone, unless he or she wanted one of us to be present. It didn't happen very often.
50. Social work visits were few and far between. We had young people who had been placed years ago from places as far afield as Dundee and Aberdeen. They really didn't know a social worker, which in retrospect was pretty bad. I can't remember any external inspections, other than the lady visitor.

Access to the children

51. There were occasions when one adult went out alone with a child. It happened on shopping trips. I think there may also have been overnight camping trips. There was a youth team at Quarriers. There was a guy overall in charge and a younger male and female. I'm sure the boys brigade went camping, which was one of the things [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was involved with.
52. Some of the house parents had houses outside the village. Joe Nicholson had a flat in Linwood. I suppose house parents could have taken children to those places without anybody else knowing about it. Sometimes, a house parent would be on his or her own with a group of children. It happened to me. Nobody would necessarily disapprove of that but neither would they know about it. Anybody who was so inclined could create situations where he or she was alone with the children.
53. The volunteers and staff had access to the children on their own, as did the foster friends. There was a huge range of staff on the village, gardeners, plumbers and cleaners.

Bed Wetting

54. The children told me that if children wet the bed in the cottages, they were quite often forced out of the bed. The cottages all had outhouses that were joined. They were cold places, but they had pegs in them for coats and welly boots. They had huge sinks and washboards. Many of the children said they'd had to wash their sheets in those sinks when they were younger. It had either happened to them or they'd seen it happen to other children.
55. A couple of older boys in the hostel were bed wetters. It was dealt with very sensitively. Persistent bed wetters were given a rubber sheet. They were also given an extra supply of sheets, which they kept in their wardrobe. The sheets were still sent to the laundry, so it wasn't a problem.

Discipline

56. I don't think there was a written or unwritten code of conduct, but there were rules. The children were allowed to go into the village on their own. On a school night, everybody had to be in by 10 o'clock. The front door was locked at that time, so if anybody tried to get in afterwards we knew about it. It was only on the odd occasion it didn't happen. I don't think that was written down anywhere. I think things were explained to the young people when they came into the hostel.
57. We did have some children who had their first taste of alcohol whilst they were staying with us. I'm not sure where that would be recorded. That would have resulted in a strict talking to from [REDACTED] and QFX. There would possibly also be a sanction such as early bed or the child not being allowed into Bridge of Weir. It wasn't something that happened regularly.
58. One of the rooms in the basement was a disco. It had a light that dulled down and little booths. If that was left in a mess, the young people would be told if it wasn't tidied up, there would be no supper the next night. That kind of sanction wasn't written down anywhere. That was the kind of relationship we had with the teenagers. Getting supper

and making it yourself was a privilege. The sanction would be the withdrawal of privileges.

59. I was never aware of any physical or corporal punishment on that group of children. I was only aware of it being used in the village because of the stories I heard from the children in the hostel.
60. I didn't encounter any behaviour amongst the children in the hostel that I wouldn't expect. Some drank, some smoked, some stayed out at night and some probably had sex. I wasn't aware of any peer abuse at Quarriers. There were a few couples in the hostel. They were sixteen.
61. I remember being in the hostel on my own. QFX and [REDACTED] must've been on a day off. I'd cooked something for tea. I don't know what else had been happening that day, but one of the children said, "Not that again." I just said, "I've had it. Serve yourselves. I'm going to go into the sitting room to have a cup of tea on my own." The children served themselves and got the dishes washed. Somebody knocked on the door and said, "We're sorry, but it's all tidied up." That was the kind of relationship I had with the teenagers.

Preparation for leaving Quarriers

62. We were there in the evening when the young people were around. As time progressed, we had activities for them and they could opt in or opt out, preparing them for independence. We tried to have group discussions with the children about becoming an adult. We would discuss relationships, health and looking after themselves. We also explored with them what they wanted to do.
63. I recall Quarriers had a mini bus which was donated by the Bay City Rollers. The bus had, "Donated by the Bay City Rollers" painted on its side. The older children at Quarriers objected to that. Staff encouraged them to start a petition and, as a result of the petition, the writing was removed from the side of the bus.

64. At that time, the older children had started getting clothing allowance rather than getting clothes from the drapery. For some of the children, that was the first time they had handled money. We would go shopping with them if requested.
65. A lot of the children in the hostel didn't have any contact with family. It was a critical time for young people of that age, where they were going to go when they left. I remember one girl, [REDACTED], had lost contact with her family but she had great memories of foster parents outside Troon. We managed to track them down and I remember taking [REDACTED] to visit them. She was hopeful that the good times she could remember would mean they would open the doors up to her as she left Quarriers at sixteen. Of course, that didn't happen.
66. A lot of the children from Quarriers ended up going into the armed forces. I was with teenagers who went to the recruitment office and sat the exam. Sometimes, we were asked to bring them back because they'd failed it. I would take them back a second time and they passed it. There are things that I did that I'm not proud of. If a young lad goes along and sits the test for the army and isn't fit to be in the army, we should've been looking at what else was right for him. There was this pressure that the children were of an age that they had to leave. The forces was one of the best things because their accommodation was sorted. Some girls went into the forces as well.
67. Some of the children ended up with apprenticeships at Quarriers because there were trades there, joiners, plumbers and mechanics. I think George Gill was good at building links in the communities to get local plumbers, joiners and electricians to take boys as apprenticeships.
68. [REDACTED] was a fantastic swimmer. She wanted a job involving swimming so she got a job at Girvan Pool. Some of the other girls in the hostel went into nursery nursing, because there were the baby homes. Some of girls had already volunteered at the baby homes and had relationships with some of the babies there. In the early 1970s, all under threes went into the baby homes rather than the cottages. That changed over the years I was there.

69. There weren't great job opportunities for the children leaving the hostel. Some of them went onto college. I think George Gill was the driving force behind leasing flats in Linwood. Quarriers bought a couple of flats in Paisley. I think the [REDACTED] family benefitted from that. [REDACTED] was quite gifted academically. He moved to a flat in Paisley and one or two of his siblings moved there too.
70. Quarriers helped the children to find accommodation. Sometimes, that meant they went onto live-in jobs. A couple of girls worked as nannies. I remember placing one girl to work in a home in Newton Mearns and another in Bridge of Weir. It was the double whammy of job and accommodation.
71. I don't think there was a hard rule about keeping contact with the children who had left. When they left the hostel, [REDACTED] and QFX kept in contact with the children. Some of them came back to visit and they would be able to stay. There was no set procedure in place as to how much contact there should be. When [REDACTED] went to work in Girvan swimming pool, I certainly stayed in touch with her. I then went off to do my social work training so I don't know what would have happened after that, had I remained at Quarriers.

Other house parents and cottages at Quarriers

72. Some of the children who came to the hostel were very loyal to their previous house parents. One incident that sticks in my mind involved a girl, [REDACTED]. She had magnificent hair. She wasn't long in the hostel when she thought she had head lice. Rather than speak to me or [REDACTED] she went back to her house mother, QNZ [REDACTED] at cottage 17.
73. [REDACTED] returned to the cottage and her hair was almost shorn. It had been attacked by scissors and had all this horrible stuff on it. She was mortified. The next day, [REDACTED] kept her off school and took her to the hairdresser to get an urchin cut. I remember that vividly because I couldn't understand how anybody could possibly do that to a

young person. As far as [REDACTED] was concerned, because it was aunty [QNZ] who did it, it was okay.

74. At that time, there were different levels of parenting from the house parents. Some were very warm and caring to the children. Others were very controlling, so some of the children, although loyal, were scared. They didn't know anything different. Most of the children had been at Quarriers from quite an early age and there was quite a difference in their relationships with former house parents.
75. [REDACTED] and [QFX] were a new breed of house parent. That didn't sit well with some of the more old school house parents. I didn't know it when I started, but some of the house parents were reluctant for children to come to the hostel. We couldn't accommodate all of the fifteen and sixteen year old children, so there were still young people of that age in the cottages.
76. Some of the house parents were joint house parents, so there was a house mother and a house father. Their lives revolved around the cottage and the village and they brought their own children up there in the same cottages. Some of the house fathers who lived in the village had jobs in the gardens or the drapery and really didn't see much outside of Quarriers.
77. There were a number of house mothers whose husbands didn't work for Quarriers. They had jobs out with the village and came back at the end of the working day. I think those cottages might have had two aunties rather than just one. Based on what the children told me, my perception was that the cottages where there was that kind of life out with the village were the cottages that were more caring. Perhaps it was because it wasn't all focused on the village. One such family was the [QGH/QGP] at cottage 36. Mrs [QGP] worked in the cottage but her husband didn't. Mrs [QGP] was kind to the children. [QAH] was at cottage 33 and her husband also worked out with the village. She stood out as having a very warm and caring attitude to the children. [QNJ] [QNJ] was at cottage 12 and her husband worked elsewhere.

78. Bill Dunbar worked in the social work department. I think he was actually Joe Mortimer's depute. He and his wife, Helen, were house parents. I think a couple called the Dimmeos were at cottage 2. There were the Nicholsons at cottage 42. Joe Nicholson, his wife and his son, Maurice. Maurice was one of the only male aunties. I worked with Joe in the social work department.
79. There were the [REDACTED] in cottage 5, who were amongst the more strict house parents. The Murdochs in cottage 10. Alistair Murdoch worked in the social work department. They left when I was there and were replaced by a lovely couple from a Salvation Army background, Janet and Albert Long. They were a breath of fresh air. They had their own children and they both worked in the cottage, but as soon as you walked into the cottage it felt very welcoming and had a nice feel to it. There was an element of fun around the place. I dealt with them over the admission of a child and I just felt like they had the right attitude.
80. [REDACTED] QKR and [REDACTED] QKY were at cottage 7. [REDACTED] There was an English couple called [REDACTED] QJK and [REDACTED] QFO in cottage 14. They both worked in the cottage. There were [REDACTED] QHD/QHE in cottage 34. They both worked there, but I didn't have a lot to do with them. [REDACTED] QBG and [REDACTED] were at cottage 6. [REDACTED] really ran the cottage and [REDACTED] QBG [REDACTED] I think they were quite strict. The children liked [REDACTED] but not [REDACTED] QBG [REDACTED] QBS/QBT were at cottage 43 and both worked in the cottage. [REDACTED] QBT had been brought up in Quarriers. There were the [REDACTED] QLH/QJM who I think were in cottage 11. Mr [REDACTED] QLH had been a minister. I think they went off to Canada.
81. There were single house mothers, but there were very few of them. There was Anne Craig in cottage 3, which had been [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] QFX previous cottage. She took on the children they'd had and was quite well rated by them. Anne was one of the few who had gone on to do the residential childcare certificate. There was a lady called [REDACTED] QJS?, who was quite strict and came from a Salvation Army background. [REDACTED] QDJ [REDACTED] QDJ [REDACTED] was in charge of cottage 8. There was [REDACTED] QNZ at cottage 17. She was very old school and had been there

for years before I arrived. She had been the house mother of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] for twelve years before they got to the hostel.

82. I'd never have known that fourteen children were living in some of the cottages that I visited during the day. They were spotless. There were no toys lying around. Some of the cottages didn't appear homely. I can only comment on the cottages that I had contact with or heard stories about from the children at the hostel.
83. The children did speak about their experiences in the cottages. That openness was encouraged in the hostel. I think it was discouraged elsewhere. I remember some of the children in the hostel saying that they'd been told by their house parents not to tell stories about what went on in the cottages when they moved to us. Some of them were loyal to their house parents because they were genuinely fond of them and others were loyal because they'd been told what to do. Some of the house parents were glad to get rid of a teenager and some of the children were not welcome back in the cottages that they came from.
84. I think it was when I came back from my social work training that cottage 20 had been set up for children with additional needs. It was for children who had created problems in the village and in the cottages, not children with special educational needs. There was a cottage for older people who had been brought up in Quarriers and worked around the village. They stayed in that hostel, cottage 9, unsupervised. One of the aunties cottages was cottage 1. That's where I stayed when I worked as an unqualified social worker. The domestic supervisor lived in cottage 35.
85. The approach of all of those house parents was very different. [REDACTED] QJK and [REDACTED] QFO had one of the first Asian families to be admitted into Quarriers. I think there were four children of the family and their mother had died. At one point, I was the social worker attached to that cottage. All fourteen children of the cottage were [REDACTED] to go to church every week. [REDACTED] QFO made [REDACTED] and this was seen as something marvellous. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Quarriers social work department

Work as an unqualified social worker (1974 -1975)

86. Before I went to Robert Gordon University, I left the hostel to work as an unqualified social worker at Quarriers for twelve to eighteen months. [QFX] had either completed or was still on the residential childcare course. My option was do the same course as [QFX] at Langside College or do the CQSW. I needed to get a bit more experience. George Gill was the senior social worker when I was there as an unqualified social worker. He knew I wanted a career in social work. The job wasn't advertised. They wanted to expand the social work team and I was allowed to move there.
87. The social work department was based in Homelea. Margaret Orr had left the social work department. Nancy Wiltshire, Joe Nicholson, [LRE] and George Gill worked there. [LRE] Nancy had come from the USA with some kind of social work qualification. She had a connection with Margaret Orr. Joe Nicholson had done the residential childcare certificate. I knew [LRE] when I was in the hostel because he was the [LRE] I don't think he had any formal qualifications. I didn't have much contact with Bill Dunbar and George, in terms of regular supervision.
88. The cottages were divided up between the number of social workers there. I wasn't given any training or induction. My role was to maintain a link with the cottages. I was also supposed to maintain a link with external social workers to deal with new admissions. They had school leavers groups, which I had to organise. I had been doing that whilst I was in the hostel.
89. At that time, there was at least one person, sometimes two, with a public relations responsibility who would go to local church groups to raise awareness of Quarriers and possibly raise funds. I recall there was a film crew present at Quarriers for some time in the late 70s, making a film which could be shared with these groups. As part of this contact, they would talk about the foster friends scheme. People out in the community could apply to befriend a child from Quarriers and take them overnight and

for weekends. The rationale was for children who were in Quarriers all the time to get out into the community, into a family home. That in itself was a good idea, but perhaps the assessment process and the matching to families was pretty hit and miss in today's terms.

90. Part of my role was also to assess foster friends. When I look back on that part of my role, nobody had trained me to be able to assess those people in a realistic way. The assessment usually involved a home visit, talking to the foster friends and two or three references. One of the references normally came from the minister and there could be one from a GP or somebody else. In the course of the visit, I would assess whether the home had the physical space for the child. There were some foster friends who didn't take the children overnight. At the time of the assessment, we would also try to work out how regular the foster friends' commitment was.
91. Looking back on it, there was no consultation or presentation of the assessment to a team of people. I wasn't given any guidance as to what to look for in the course of the assessment. It really was a case of going on my gut instinct. There were a couple of occasions when I thought prospective foster friends were not suitable. Normally, it was because of practical things, such as them having no spare bedroom to accommodate a child overnight.
92. Sometimes, the foster friends scheme worked out really well. However, I can remember the older sibling of a young girl who I had matched with a foster friend. [REDACTED] was sixteen and his sister was maybe eight or nine. He thought the next step was that she would be fostered and taken away from Quarriers. He was absolutely furious, so much so that one of my colleagues had to come into my room and take this young man out. The house parents usually identified children who would benefit from having a foster friend. There was no way of consulting with siblings.
93. I remember going round the cottages to introduce myself. [REDACTED] and QFX were seen as a new breed. The fact that I'd been working with them meant that I was very welcome in some cottages, but not so much in others.

94. I was allocated cottage 10. The house parents there were Janet and Alebert Long. I worked with the [QGH/QGP] at cottage 36. I also had a new set of house parents, who had a cottage 40. The house mother's name was Jean. Her husband worked out with the village. I didn't have such a good relationship with [QJK] and [QFO] at cottage 14 family because I perceived them as very strict. I also had contact with [QAH] at cottage 33. She was very nice, but kept me at a distance.
95. There was no protocol that said they would get a visit from me once a month or whatever, so it was on an as needed basis. I had very little contact with the children. Cottages 36 and 10 were happy for me to pop in on my way home. I had to wait to be invited to others. [QFO/QJK] would invite me for lunch when the children were home. However, I wasn't really able to chat to the children. There were no procedures and protocols so it was very much at the instigation of the particular house parents and how comfortable they felt with their social worker.
96. If a child was being admitted from Glasgow, the information would come into the social work office. If there was time, a pre-admission visit took place. Sometimes it was case of there being a phone call to check whether there was space and the children just appeared that night or the following day.
97. Children were allocated to cottages depending on where a vacancy was available. I remember the [REDACTED] family from Dundee. There were four or five siblings. They were spread over three cottages. There were also big families such as the [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED] who weren't siblings but were related. Once a family was admitted to a cottage, they had the identity of that cottage rather than the identity of being a sibling to a family. If a family was spread over several cottages upon admission, there was no policy to try place them in the same cottage.
98. There was a duty system within the social work department, which kicked in when the office shut at 5 o'clock and over the weekends. All the social workers took their turn at that on a rota. By the time I left to study for my social work qualification in 1975, the number of children being placed at Quarriers was starting to dwindle. The local authority was moving away from using large institutions like Quarriers.

99. When I was at Quarriers, I was always really interested in the baby homes. In my job as an unqualified social worker, I had responsibility for liaison with one of the two baby homes. One of them was called Campbell Maltman and the other was Laing Shrewsbury. Alison Mundell was the sister in charge. There were thirty babies, aged nought to three years old in each building. They slept in dormitories, which contained low beds and cots. I can't recall there being a play room. Children lived, ate and slept in one large room. I can recall smaller rooms with four to six cots in them for young babies.
100. The baby homes were staffed by nurses and nursery nurse students. I didn't have contact with the nursery nurses when I visited. There was very little one to one contact for these children. For example, the baby seats had a tray in front of them and there would be six seats joined together with one nursery nurse going along a row to feed children. Demands on staff meant that there was little contact, cuddles or stimulation on an individual basis. It was so regimented. Some of the older girls in the village spent time in the baby homes, helping out and befriending some of the young children.
101. There were a lot of children in the baby homes with Downs Syndrome. Their parents had placed them in Quarriers and paid for them to be there. Some of those parents had contact with their children every weekend. The children with Downs Syndrome didn't always end up going on to a cottage. They might have gone on to some other resource after leaving the baby homes.
102. The practical care was done, but the emotional care was missing. Play was not a big thing. However, my feeling is that the care there probably reflected similar care being provided in other residential nurseries at that time. Children could be in the baby homes for two to three years. They'd go into the cottages with fourteen or sixteen other children. They had behavioural problems already because they didn't have the skills to cope. It just compounded the whole thing. Over the years I was at Quarriers, the baby homes closed.

Work as a qualified social worker (1977 – 1979)

103. By the time I returned after doing my training, the social work team was much bigger. There were regular team meetings and supervision and more focus to our work. There was a drop in the numbers of children being placed in Quarriers. For that reason, Quarriers had recruited new social workers with different skills. For example, Margaret Scott came from a fostering background. Ian Brodie and Rab Murphy had been recruited while I was away. There was another social worker called Jan, but I can't remember her surname. George Gill and Joe Broussard were also there until they went to head up Southannan School.
104. I felt supported at Quarriers when I was a qualified social worker. There was a good team of social workers who were quite committed, although I exclude Joe Nicholson from that.
105. I was accountable to George Gill. He was assistant director to Joe Mortimer, who was director. Doctor Davidson and Jim Minto would have been above Joe Mortimer in the management structure. There was far more supervision of my work than there had been before I went on my course. Margaret Scott was promoted to senior social worker when George Gill moved to Southannan. She supervised me and looked at what I was doing with the cottages and the leavers' groups. We also had team meetings on a regular basis.
106. Some of the house parents thought I was too new a broom and I didn't have enough experience. In their view, everything was running fine so they didn't understand why I had to have contact with them. Others, who were the newer breed, were quite happy to have somebody, even just to chat informally over a cup of tea in the kitchen.
107. Quarriers had gone into partnership with Strathclyde region to recruit foster carers before I returned. They had a huge recruitment drive and hundreds of people came to information sessions at Quarriers. The assessment process and link work was done jointly between Quarriers and Strathclyde region. The main thrust was to foster out the children who were living in Quarriers and had been placed there by Strathclyde.

108. I don't think the scheme met the expectations of the local authority in terms of the number of children placed into foster care, but there were some children and groups of siblings who did benefit from it. When children moved on, the Quarriers social work department did maintain contact with them. I wasn't a part of the scheme, but I can remember Margaret Scott going out and maintaining contact with the children or getting phone calls from foster carers experiencing difficulties or looking for support.
109. Although Strathclyde pulled the plug on Quarriers, they struggled to find placements for children elsewhere. I was still dealing with admissions to cottages when I returned in 1977. Cottage 20 was created for children having difficulties. At that time, the Southannan project was put in place, headed up by George Gill and Joe Broussard. The core group of children who moved to Southannan were Quarriers children. There were some children who came straight into Southannan from the local authority because of its List G status in terms of providing more specialist care for children.
110. When I was away doing my training, they also introduced regular reviews of the cottages. I would go along to the cottages with all the children's files. I would discuss every single child with the house parent. The children weren't present. I would discuss how the children were getting on at school, their general health and any contact with their parents, social workers or foster friends. It provided a general picture of how the child was getting on. It also provided the house parents with an opportunity to raise any issues which needed some action to be taken.
111. My report from a cottage review went to George Gill initially and then Margaret Scott. I'm not sure what happened to them after that. If there were any particular issues about a child, I would speak to somebody.
112. The reviews about a child's placement were done separately from the cottage review. We held reviews with social workers which took place in the social work office. The social worker from the local authority would come down and the cottage parents would also attend. Those reviews would be chaired by Margaret or George as the representatives of Quarriers. For example, when Southannan was being created,

there were various reviews about children to discuss that kind of move. The Children's Hearings system was in place by that time, but I can't remember attending one.

113. I never knew what Bill Dunbar's job was, other than he worked at the office and had a room to himself. I think he was Joe Mortimer's right hand man when I was in the hostel. He dealt with PR and raising awareness of the work of Quarriers. He may have had a training role with the police cadets or other volunteers.
114. Children weren't encouraged to make their way to the social work office, although the team that were recruited whilst I was doing my training were a different breed in terms of having more contact with the children. I did have the opportunity to speak to children out with the presence of their house parents, but it was usually only when there was a problem. Normally, it would be in relation to behavioural problems that the house parents were struggling to cope with. I would be the problem solver so the best way to deal with the problem was to meet with the child.
115. I remember an occasion when one of the boys, [REDACTED] managed to get some drink. He must have been fourteen or fifteen and he was found inebriated on the playing fields. He was in Joe Mortimer's office, having a strip torn off him for under-age drinking. Joe Mortimer then appeared in our office. He told us that he had to leave his office to compose himself. We asked him why and he told us that he'd asked the boy why he thought he had the right to drink at his age. The boy had replied, "Mr Mortimer, it said on the bottle, 'Serve child' (chilled)."
116. There was a psychologist attached to Quarriers, Jean Morris. She would be there a couple of afternoons a week and she had an office there, where she kept her files. The house parents couldn't refer to her, but they could use us to get a referral. It was quite often to do with bed wetting or behavioural difficulties. Jean Morris' office was next to the social work office. It didn't really allow the children much privacy to talk. They would be seen going into our office, so it didn't allow children any kind of security to confide in her.

117. My dealings with Jean Morris were really only to refer a child to her and maybe have a chat to her about the child. She would give some hints to house parents as to how to manage behaviour. The house parents in cottage 40 had problems with a girl called [REDACTED]. She could ruin a dorm in the space of five minutes if she kicked off. Jean Morris, myself and the house parents tried to create a strategy to cope with her behaviour. I never found out whether the behaviour she was exhibiting was due to some underlying cause. She was placed in St. Euphrasia's in Bishopton. Her younger brother, [REDACTED] also created difficulties and was placed in Southannan.
118. There were definitely occasions when Jean Morris' advice would be fed back to the house parent but not put into practice. For some house parents, referring children to Jean Morris was a ploy to get a child out of the cottage. I think it could be used in that kind of way, rather than as a working partnership to work through the difficulties. I think I recorded in the child's records that a child had been referred and what her recommendations had been.

Abuse at Quarriers

119. I did have a feeling about the regime in cottage 14. [REDACTED] QFO/QJK were very strict. It was one of the cottages where children had to do chores before school in the morning. When I was there at mealtimes, there was no talking at the table. That was normal for those children. However, the children were well fed and nourished. They turned up for school every day and did as well as they could.
120. [REDACTED] QBS/QBT took exception to me on one occasion when I was a social worker. An older sibling told me that a younger sibling had been spanked as a punishment. I think the children were from the [REDACTED] family. The older sibling was in one of the more caring cottages and I was the social worker assigned to his cottage as well. I went to the [REDACTED] QBS/QBT cottage and they said it had happened and that it had been entered into the punishment book.

121. I told them I wanted to see it written in the punishment book so I could take it to the office at Homelea. They weren't happy about that and they wouldn't let me in the cottage for a while. I would've recorded what happened on the file of the child who had been hit, including the date of the incident and how I'd heard about it. I passed the information over to Mr Mortimer. I don't know what action was taken after that.
122. Some of the children in the hostel did talk about belts having been used by house parents. In the time that I was there, I never witnessed any kind of injury to a child having been caused by an implement.
123. Quarriers had a relationship with a [REDACTED] called [REDACTED]. He owned the lands at [REDACTED]. There was a [REDACTED] and an [REDACTED]. He also had a [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] went off to work [REDACTED] at the age of sixteen. He came back to the village with no explanation as to why he had come back. There were rumours flying around at that time that [REDACTED] was homosexual and that a number of boys were being groomed to go and work for him. I heard these rumours from the youngsters in the hostel.
124. Another boy from Quarriers, [REDACTED] had also gone to work for [REDACTED]. He was still there working for him [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] would be around the village for occasions, but the relationship seemed to be more with Doctor Davidson than Jim Minto. When Jim Minto arrived, [REDACTED] wasn't around as much.
125. In the early 70s, one of the boys in the hostel had a brief affair with one of the female youth leaders at Quarriers. The boy's name was [REDACTED] although he could have been sixteen by then. There were two young youth leaders. The male was Alan Edwards but I can't remember the name of his female counterpart. [REDACTED] and QFX dealt with that and reported it to Quarriers head office.
126. There were some staff at Quarriers that I didn't particularly like or warm to. There was just something about them. I shared an office with Joe Nicholson when I was first in the social work office and also when I returned as a qualified social worker. I never felt comfortable around him. Sometimes, when I saw him around the younger girls, I

thought he was a bit inappropriate. It wasn't overtly sexual, I just thought there was something underlying that wasn't quite right. If a young girl came into the office, he would be the one to give her a cuddle.

127. I shared a house with Margaret Scott at that time and I know she felt the same way as me about Joe Nicholson. When the news came out about his conviction, it came as no big surprise to me. Nowadays, I think I would have articulated what I was feeling about him to someone more senior rather than keeping it to myself. In those kind of circumstances, if a few people felt the same way then there is a problem. There was no procedure in place at the time, to report concerns about another staff member.
128. I didn't know Mary Ann Drummond or Arnold. Alexander or Sandy Wilson was a plumber or gardener in the village, but not somebody I had a huge amount of contact with. I don't know Euphemia or Effie Climie. I heard the name Samuel McBriarty from some of the young people at the hostel, but he wasn't somebody that I knew at all. I didn't know I was aware of Stuart Gilmore. I recall him being involved in some of the school leavers' activities organised in the village. I think he might have had overnight stays at Joe Nicholson's cottage. He was the son of the Gilmores at Overbridge in Pollokshields. He may have visited cottage 32, but I didn't know him particularly well.
129. Ruth Wallace was very old school. She kept herself to herself. I think she was quite firm with the children. However, [REDACTED] who was resident at the hostel, had been brought up by Ruth and was very fond of her.
130. Everybody in the village knew John Porteous because of his role. He was [REDACTED] [REDACTED] one of the men around the village full of his own importance. I didn't really have any direct contact with him. He [REDACTED] [REDACTED] had a reputation for being very strict.
131. I've read some of the things that David Whelan has written about John Porteous. I knew David Whelan and can picture him as a young boy. To read about all the things that were happening to him horrifies me. There were all these adults in that village and

he wasn't able to go to anybody and he was being abused in that way. It makes me wonder if he was only one of how many others?

QFX

132. [REDACTED] Whilst I was at Quarriers, I only knew of one incident that left me feeling very uncomfortable, in 1973 or 1974. After I'd moved out of the hostel, there was an incident with [REDACTED] I was still very friendly with [REDACTED]. She told me that [REDACTED] had made an allegation against QFX There was a rota for getting the young people up in the morning. We knocked on the door and went in and shook the ones who were harder to rouse. [REDACTED] made an allegation that QFX had been touching her as she awoke.
133. [REDACTED] was distraught, but by the time she told me about it the incident had already been dealt with. It had been investigated by the office at Homelea, although all that seemed to have happened was that there was a closed discussion. George Gill and Joe Mortimer were aware of it and there had been some discussion with [REDACTED] QFX about it. The conclusion they came to was that [REDACTED] had had a crush on QFX and that what she said had happened was just a figment of her imagination. No further action was to be taken. I think that in her head, [REDACTED] wanted an explanation like that. She didn't want to think that her husband had done this.
134. At that time, I wouldn't have known what a proper investigation was. I would've expected an incident of that nature to be recorded in the child's file. It was an incident that sat uneasily with me. I knew [REDACTED] and I didn't think she would make it up. With the benefit of hindsight, I think the investigation was totally inappropriate. There should have been some outside involvement and somebody independent. I think what happened to [REDACTED] was probably fairly typical of what would've happened to any child who made such an allegation at that time. Often, the blame was placed on the child.
135. QFX wasn't much older than me. He was probably 25 or 26. He was very confident and very handsome. He was very sporty and had a good relationship with the children. Because I was friendly with [REDACTED] I was aware that he had an affair [REDACTED]

██████████ He wasn't squeaky clean. He was probably over familiar with some of the girls, but in all honesty I was surprised to hear about the incident. I believed ██████████ but it did shock me that something like that had happened. It made me wonder whether it had happened to somebody else who hadn't had the ability to express what took place.

136. QFX and ██████████ left Quarriers quite soon after the incident. ██████████ left QFX for a short period of time. She returned to her family home in ██████████ and not long after that, ██████████ and QFX left Quarriers. QFX took up a post ██████████ in Paisley. ██████████ actually left QFX because of domestic violence. After all of these things, you got a different picture of the man. He wasn't the man I first met, or he was able to project a different persona. He was well liked in the village. ██████████ died of bowel cancer in 1988. QFX remarried and had another child.

Reporting of abuse by children at Quarriers

137. There was no clear pathway for children to go and speak to an adult about any concerns they might have. The cottages just worked as a unit. Most of the house parents there had no training. I'm not sure whether the children who came into the hostel had ever reported any of the things they told me about to any other adult. Some of the children who came into the hostel had been in cottages in the 60s when things were quite different. I think the cottages had more children in them and very little contact with an outside social worker. I think many of them just took it.
138. Joe Mortimer did have an open door policy, but the children still had to get from the cottages to his office. I think that was a huge step for children. George Gill operated that same policy. He was more visible around the village, so he might have heard more from the children when they were out and about in the evening. The office was quite imposing. It was the main office. It was all brass and shiny floors. Joe Mortimer had a big office with a big desk in it. I think that took some guts, for children to make that move.

Records

Cottage 32

139. In the early days in Quarriers, there was a bound admission book with the child's name, date of birth, who brought the child and how much they were to pay. I'm not sure when children's files came into existence.
140. The children had very few records when they moved into the hostel. For some, it might just have been whatever mementos there may have been from when they were admitted. Very few of them had ever seen a social worker. I remember one boy telling me that all he could remember was arriving at Quarriers. He had been told he was going on holiday with his sister to this lovely village and he was still there fourteen years later.
141. The records that were kept in each cottage varied. I don't think we kept a lot of information at the hostel either. We had a diary, but it was more about managing time. I think we did that ourselves because we were working with teenagers who were coming and going at different times.
142. We had to keep a log of menus that were provided. There was a punishment book in the hostel, which I think was a soft back book with Quarriers name on the front. I didn't fill out the punishment book as that was the responsibility of the house parents. There was a visitors' book, which recorded whether a social worker or a lady visitor came to the hostel.
143. I have a vague recollection that [REDACTED] might have had a filing cabinet with bits and pieces in it. There wasn't anything there that I contributed to on a regular basis. The records weren't checked or monitored. I think the main record keeping was done by the social work department, so any records in the cottage were minimal.

Social work department

144. I can remember taking notes in the social work department. The children had files in the office at Homelea. The content of the files varied. Some of the children's files had nothing in them. To give an example of the type of information I recorded, I would've noted that the young [REDACTED] girl was going to be placed with a foster friend. I would have provided details of the foster friend and also the incident when her brother expressed his anger.
145. If I had contact with a visiting social worker, I would note that in the records. If there had been any incidents in the cottage that I had dealt with or the cottage parents had made me aware of, I would note that. I made a note that recorded the cottage reviews, which would be a general note providing an overview of the situation in the cottage. I also jotted things in each child's file, as they came up at the cottage review. I don't think the house parents were forthcoming with the punishment book. It wasn't part of the review, but some house parents did offer it. I don't remember there being any obligation upon the house parents to submit the punishment book on a regular basis.
146. All the children had a reference number which related to the year of their admission. The files were kept in filing cabinets in the social work office. When a child left Quarriers, the file was sealed and handed to admin in the front office. I don't know what happened after that. As you came in the main gate, there was a small bungalow on the left hand side. I think that may have been where the closed files were kept.

Reporting of abuse

147. The incident [REDACTED] reported lay dormant with me for all those years until Strathclyde police contacted me in 2003. The police asked me if remembered anything from my time at Quarriers that I had felt uncomfortable about. They asked me about that incident specifically, so it's possible either [REDACTED] or somebody else had given them my name. I was able to give them the name of the young person and work out roughly which year it had been. The police told me they had interviewed a number of

people who had no recollection of the incident. Those people were George Gill and Joe Mortimer.

148. I gave the statement around August or September 2003. I was diagnosed with breast cancer in October and asked to appear in court in November 2003. I was having surgery so I couldn't attend. Something happened to that hearing and it was postponed to the following spring. Either on that occasion or the time afterwards, the case was thrown out because of some kind of legal technicality. I was asked to appear at court three times. I never actually gave evidence in court, I just gave the statement to the police.
149. I've never been asked to give any other statements to the police about my time at Quarriers, nor have I ever been the subject of a complaint.

Newfield Assessment Centre, Johnstone (1979 – 1980)

150. I left Quarriers when my two year secondment came to an end. Strathclyde had pulled the plug and a brand new assessment centre was opening in Johnstone. I didn't have a happy experience there. The name of the officer in charge was Chris Warbrick. Hilda McNair and Derek Bibby were the other managers. It pulled staff from all over Scotland because it was one of the first purpose built assessment centres to open. Individually, they were a skilled group of people. However, it was a brand new group of staff who had no proper induction or team building.
151. It took boys and girls. It also had a short stay intermediate treatment unit. The intermediate treatment unit was to be used for short residential stays and the team based there would also work with the child in the community. To start with, I worked in the boys' assessment unit.
152. The first lot of children who came in were very difficult, including a nine year old girl who had been accused of murdering another child in Aberdeen. The children rioted. I

saw children being restrained in ways that they shouldn't have been. A lot of us tried to hold it together.

153. When I'd been there for six or seven months, my sister's husband was killed in an accident at work. It made me take a breath. I thought, "What can I do here?" I went away with some friends for the weekend. They asked me how my new job was going and I told them I was going to hand in my letter of resignation when we got back on the Monday. I was so angry about what I'd seen happen to children, I wrote my resignation letter to Fred Edwards, the director of social work, rather than Chris Warbrick.
154. My letter of resignation contained a handwritten list of complaints about what was happening to children and the fact that the head wasn't managing what was going on. My letter was then passed to the assistant director of social work for Renfrew division, Sid Graham. I was called in to a meeting with him. He went through all my points and asked what would need to happen for me to stay on in my position. I told him the manager would need to go because he couldn't manage and children shouldn't be suffering like that.
155. Renfrew division told me they'd investigate it and get back to me. About a week later, they got back in touch. They said there was nothing they could do at that time about the allegations I'd made, but that they'd been instructed by Fred Edwards to find me a post of equivalent pay and grade in the Renfrew division. I said, "Thank you, but no thank you."
156. I was out of work and then ended up getting involved in early years provision. When I went for my interview in Perth, there was the adviser from education, the head of the nursery and the assistant director of social work present because it was a joint centre. They asked me why I'd left my previous job and I told them what had happened. The head teacher told me months later that they hadn't believed me. They phoned Renfrew division and they confirmed exactly what I had said.

157. There were bad things going on at Newfield. Months later, Chris Warbrick did lose his job. It was for financial irregularities, which is easier to prove than the kind of allegations I had made. Those allegations will be on file somewhere. You learn from these kind of experiences, but I found it pretty distressing working there.

Observations on child protection procedures

158. I didn't receive training or guidance regarding early warning signs of child sexual abuse in my social work course in the 70s. I don't think I was being appropriately trained in that kind of thing until the mid-80s. I don't think adults in a professional capacity were open to believing children like [REDACTED]. I think that reflected what society was like at that time too. Over the years, whichever street or community you lived in, the community knew that there might be concerns about an adult. You'd be told not to go there or not to talk to the man, not that the man wasn't nice to children. Child abuse has always gone on.
159. One of the big things I've been aware of over the course of my career is the need to have an awareness of child development. When I look back at house parents, including myself, QFX and [REDACTED] we weren't trained or skilled in terms of our understanding of child development and child psychology. There was no scope for us to pick up signs, signals and distress or the kind of early warning system that professionals can pick up nowadays. There was also no scope for children to express any concerns that they had. Those things combined set the scene for abuse to take place. There was opportunity and motive there to do it.
160. I think staffing levels and one person being alone with the children would now be unacceptable. The fact that I went into bedrooms to wake up boys or QFX went into bedrooms to wake up girls was just par for the course then.

Lessons to be learned

- 161. Because of the way my career has gone, I think the whole business of baby homes was wrong. It wasn't just in Quarriers. In the 70s, there were residential nurseries all over Scotland. Looking back on it, that group care was shocking. The staff would wear white gowns and masks to feed the children. When I took over the day nursery in Perth in 1985, the gowns and masks were still in the cupboards there. It was one of the things I got rid of when I went in. The staff said they were being kept in case they used them again.

- 162. Looking after children, whether they're your own or somebody else's, is an important job. You need to have the skills to do it. I don't think the way that house parents, aunties or myself were selected to work with children was good. I think the days of having group care for those numbers of children are well gone. I think the whole practice of splitting siblings up was wrong.

- 163. I have no objection to my witness statement being published as part of the evidence to the Inquiry. I believe the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed..... 

Dated..... *10th September 2018.*