

**Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry**

Witness Statement of

QDU [REDACTED]

Support person present: Yes, [REDACTED] (wife)

1. My name is QDU [REDACTED] My date of birth is [REDACTED] 1971. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

**Life before going into care**

*Family background*

2. I was born in Duke Street Hospital in Glasgow. My family lived on [REDACTED] in Craigend, Glasgow. My mum was called [REDACTED]. I always knew her as [REDACTED]. My dad was called [REDACTED]. I can't remember much about my dad. I don't know when either of my parents were born.
3. I am the oldest of four siblings. My siblings are called [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is a year younger than me, [REDACTED] is a year younger than [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] is a couple of years younger than [REDACTED].
4. I lived with my parents for my first five or six years. My mum and dad then split up. My mum left the family home. We were left with my dad. He coped for as long as he could. He then met another lady. I can't remember her name. My dad and his new partner decided that they wanted to make a fresh start. That resulted in my siblings and I being no longer required.

5. A lot of the time when I was with my dad we were locked outside. I don't know whether it was because he was working. All I know is that we couldn't get into the house. I remember on one occasion falling and cutting my arm. A neighbour took me to in and patched me up because my dad wasn't there.
6. I remember that a couple of weeks before we went into care my dad got all my siblings and I christened in a church that sat next door to the social work department by Hogganfield Loch. I don't know whether my dad did that so that the minister or priest in the church would know who we were. I don't know whether he may have done that to make sure that God would look after us.

*Being placed into care*

7. I remember the day before my siblings and I were placed into care. I think it was a Friday. I was about seven or eight at the time. A delivery truck turned up and took away all of the household furniture. It took all my dad and his partner's stuff but it didn't take our stuff. All our toys were left in the house. That night we all had to sleep in my dad's bed together. I remember [REDACTED] wet the bed which wasn't pleasant. The following morning we had to all go down and fill up a carrier bag each with our toys and a few changes of clothes.
8. My dad's partner then put us all in a black cab. I don't remember saying bye to my dad. We then all drove down the road with my dad's partner. All four of us were dumped at the social work department by Hogganfield Loch. My dad's partner put us in and closed the gate. She got back into the taxi. The taxi driver started to drive away. We opened the gate then ran into the road after the taxi. The taxi then stopped. My dad's partner then ran back down the hill, put us back in by the social work department and told us to wait because someone was coming to get us. She then drove away in the taxi.
9. The social work department was shut because it was the weekend. The office was closed. There was nobody there. Luckily the priest or minister from the church next door took us in. It was the priest or minister who then phoned the social work

department. A couple of social workers from the social work department then came and got us. They took us upstairs in the social work department. They sat us down and gave us some soup. I remember us sitting with the social worker for several hours whilst they made loads of phone calls. I don't know how many places the social worker phoned. It was obvious that it wasn't easy because there were four of us. I think we ended up in Quarriers because it was such a massive establishment.

### **Quarriers Village, Bridger of Weir – cottage 7**

10. I was in cottage 7 from seven or eight until the age of about eleven or twelve. My siblings and I all ended up in cottage 7. All the cottages in Quarriers are massive. They're gorgeous. They're Victorian buildings. All the rooms inside the cottages were large. The kitchen was massive. There was a big walk in pantry. There was a big games room.
11. There were probably about twelve or fourteen kids who were residents in cottage 7 in total. There might have been more than that. That was excluding the [REDACTED] children. I think the age range in the cottage was from about six or seven up to thirteen or fourteen. When I look back I can't clearly remember any of the kids that were there. I can remember talking to them but no other detail.

The [REDACTED]

12. I think that the name of the cottage parents were the [REDACTED]. I don't remember their first names. One of them might have been called [REDACTED]. We didn't call any of the house parents in Quarriers by their names. We called them 'house mother' or 'house father.' It was always something like that. The [REDACTED] might have been either in their forties or fifties. I felt the [REDACTED] were really old when I was that young.
13. The [REDACTED] had three children of their own. They had two boys. One was called [REDACTED]. He was about six or seven when I arrived. The other was called [REDACTED]. He

was probably about twelve when I arrived. They also had a girl. I don't remember anything about her. I think the QAY/QEI had more time for their own children. I remember there being double standards in the way in which their children were treated. We weren't allowed to say anything against their kids. We were told not to mingle with their children unless their child wanted to mingle with us.

14. The QAY/QEI and their children all lived in cottage 7. The QAY/QEI had their own separate section in the cottage. A lot of the time their children were with them in their part of the cottage. I just remember a door and their 'bit' being behind that door. I can't remember ever going into their part of the cottage so I don't remember what it really consisted of.

#### *Other staff*

15. There were staff who came in during the day to help out. They would leave at night. I don't know whether some of the staff may have also been social workers. We also didn't call the social workers or staff who worked in the cottages by their names. They were known as 'aunties' and 'uncles'. I don't remember the names of any of the aunties or uncles.
16. The aunties did everything. They did the cooking and they did all the chores. They never spent any time with the kids though. They just did what they needed to do about the cottage then left. I don't remember having any real interaction with the aunties.

#### *Separation from siblings*

Not too long after I went into Quarriers I asked my social worker whether I could contact my dad because I wanted to find out what was going on. I'm sure I asked that between eight months and a year of me being in Quarriers. I can't remember who the social worker was. The social worker then found my dad. He sent him a letter asking if he wanted to correspond with us. There was no answer. I was told

that my dad didn't want to know. I was told by my social worker that that was as far as they could take it and that there was nothing else they could do.

17. Not long after that I was approached again by my social worker. I was about eight or nine. The social worker said that, because I was the oldest, I had to make the decision to split up my family. The social worker told me that.. I had to say to the social worker that I was happy for my siblings and I to be fostered separately. I think that the social worker then got me to sign something. I don't know whether I actually signed something. However, I was told that if I didn't agree we would all have to remain in Quarriers and all of us would never get fostered. I was told that to give us the best chance of being fostered I had to agree to us being fostered separately.
18. ██████ and ██████ got fostered to a placement on a farm very quickly. It would've been only within about a year of us arriving. I went to the farm a couple of times to visit ██████ and ██████ later on. I learnt from that family during the visits that they had initially wanted to only foster ██████ because they had a boy about the same age. They wanted ██████ to be a companion to their son. However, in the end they also fostered ██████ because she could help out in the home when people were out working on the farm. That foster placement was destroyed a few years later on. My mother turned up and, because ██████ and ██████ had not been adopted, she was able to take them away.

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19. ██████ was fostered several times. In-between the breakdowns of ██████'s first three or four foster placements he came back to cottage 7. He continued to get fostered. He ultimately ended up with my Grandma ██████ when he was about fourteen or fifteen. My Grandma ██████ had a soft spot for him.

## Routine at cottage 7

### *First day*

20. The social workers from Hogganfield Loch took us straight from the social work department to Quarriers. Nobody explained to us what was happening. I'm pretty sure that we were all taken straight to cottage 7. I don't remember going anywhere else first. The QAY/QEI met us at the door.
21. We were taken straight into the kitchen alongside the social workers. Juice, sandwiches and cakes had been laid out for us. The QAY/QEI must have known we were coming. The social workers then left. I went straight for the cake. As a kid of that age you're always going to go straight for the cakes. I was told that I wasn't allowed to eat the cake before I had eaten the sandwiches. That was the first time I got really shouted at in Quarriers. It scared me because I hadn't really been shouted at like that before. I can't remember what happened after that. We must have been shown around the cottage and introduced to the other children. Everything felt as if it was all being thrown at me so I don't recall the detail.
22. For the first wee while everything wasn't too bad. It felt fine. It felt like a normal childhood with the normal routines. It was only after I started to settle into the routine that Mr and Mrs QAY/QEI started to show what they were really like.

### *Daily routine*

23. I can't remember who got us up in the morning. It was either one of the aunties or Mrs QEI I remember it being a woman. They would come in, open all the doors, turn the lights on and tell everybody to get out of bed. After that there was hardly any talking. Everybody got up and did what they needed to do to get ready. I remember avoiding mixing in to avoid getting into trouble. We then had breakfast in the kitchen. After breakfast we went to school. I don't remember coming back to the cottage for lunch. When I came back to the cottage I got out of my uniform. I don't remember ever doing homework after I came back from school. I just got out of the

cottage. I would spend my time being in the grounds hiding in the monkey puzzle trees that were there. I did that so that I wouldn't be in anybody's way. It meant that I couldn't get into trouble. I would be out for a couple of hours before returning to the cottage. We then had dinner. After that we all went into the games room.

#### *Sleeping arrangements*

24. I can only remember there being two bedrooms. One was for the boys and one was for the girls. The bedrooms each slept between six and eight people. It was all bunk beds. There were about four or five sets of bunk beds in each room.

#### *Washing / bathing*

25. I don't know why but I can't remember anything about washing and bathing. It is as if I've blocked that out of my memory. All I remember is that there was a shower room. I only remember that because of an incident that occurred in there later on. It's strange because I can remember all of the other rooms in the cottage vividly but I just can't remember the toilets or the bathrooms.

#### *Mealtimes / food*

26. We had all our meals in the cottage. The cottage aunties prepared all the meals. We got properly fed. I remember there always being big pots with things like mashed potatoes in them. I don't remember the food being amazing.
27. For breakfast there was porridge. I can't remember coming back to the cottage from school for lunch. We had dinner in the cottage. One of the things you had to do was eat all of your greens. I think that's one of the reasons why I don't like brussel sprouts now. If you didn't eat your food you got punished for it. You got leathered. You just got to the stage that you would just eat the food even if you didn't like it.

*Clothing / uniform*

28. There was a wee shop in Quarriers. It was attached to the school. You would go down there every so often to get a new batch of clothes. Everybody wore pretty much the same clothes. I assume that they just ordered in batches of all the same clothes.

*Possessions*

29. I had pretty much nothing. I had no friends or family who would buy anything for me whilst I was in Quarriers. There were banks of lockers in the games room. Everybody had their own locker. There were no locks on the doors. I didn't have anything to put in the lockers so I didn't put anything in mine.

*School*

30. There was a school on site at Quarriers. I was only there for a couple of years. It was a case of going there every day. I loved it. I remember in the second year they awarded a prize to the best kid who went to the school. I came second. I remember the first prize being a big digger. I remember feeling destroyed because I thought I was going to get the digger. After primary school age, I went to Linwood High School. They bussed you out there.

*Chores*

31. I don't really remember having any chores to do. From what I remember doing it wasn't anything major.

*Religious instruction*

32. We went to church every weekend.

*Leisure time*

33. They had a games room but it didn't have much in it. I think there was a pool table that nobody ever used. The toys that the QAY/QEI gave you were just pass me downs. They owned the stuff and you were allowed to play with it. I can't remember whether there was a television in the cottage. There was a room that you had to ask permission to go into that may have had a television. However, I never bothered asking to go into there. I used to just go out and wander about. I was used to being outside from my time with my father so that was not a problem for me.

*Trips / holidays*

34. We would go on summer holidays to Girvan with the QAY/QEI. There was a handful of us who went. I only remember that happening on two occasions. Quarriers had a holiday village there. I can't remember whether the cottage aunties were there. There were three or four big sprawling cottages there that we used to stay in. It was sort of fun. The QAY/QEI were usually in a better frame of mind when they took us on holiday.
35. The cottages were infested with field mice. I think that was because there was nobody in the cottages outside the summer. There were traps everywhere. There were several times when they were cooking the food that they found mice in the food. I can't remember who cooked the food. I think they just pulled the mouse out of the food and we still had to eat it.
36. On one occasion we went whelk hunting on the coast. There was an adult there but I don't remember who it was. The tide came in. We ended up being stuck out on the rocks. We all had to climb back over the rocks to make it back to shore. It was really scary.

*Birthdays and Christmas*

37. I don't remember any birthdays being celebrated. There was nothing happened with me whilst I was in Quarriers. I don't remember seeing anyone else's birthday being celebrated.
38. I don't remember there being a Christmas tree but I remember there being decorations. Christmas wasn't special. I don't remember there being a special meal. It was just a case of it being another day. They didn't make a big deal of it. I don't remember going to church but we probably did. We went every weekend so it is likely that we did.
39. You did get a gift from the house parents. The only gift I remember getting was a cassette tape. I was told by Mrs <sup>QEI</sup> [REDACTED] that we were all getting a cassette tape and I could choose which one to get. I said that I wanted ABBA. I remember that everybody else ended up getting the cassette that they wanted. I got Bucks Fizz. I was told that they were just like ABBA.
40. I remember one Christmas that I had a friend who I wanted to buy a present for. I asked the <sup>QAY/QEI</sup> [REDACTED] if I could have some money to buy him something. I was handed a second hand annual and told that I could give my friend that.

*Visits / inspections*

41. When social workers came in to visit you they collected you in the games room in the cottage before they took you out. We would either walk around Quarriers or go to a café for something to eat. I would see social workers all of the time. I probably saw a social worker every week or couple of weeks. It could have been less than that. I did see them regularly though. When I was with my brothers and siblings we were probably seen together. After they were fostered I was obviously on my own. The <sup>QAY/QEI</sup> [REDACTED] were never in the room when I was visited by my social worker in the cottage.

42. Social workers came and went. I didn't pay much attention to them. I remember two of them being called Anne who came one after another. I remember a later one called Gavin. I had so many social workers over my time in Quarriers that I can't pinpoint which ones visited me at particular times. A lot of them seemed to be just doing what they needed to be doing. They didn't seem as if they really cared.
43. I remember there being a social work department in the grounds where we met our outside social workers who were coming in. I think I had both a Glasgow City Council and a Quarriers social worker. I do remember that there was a social worker's office in Quarriers itself.
44. I went to visit [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] three or four times during my time in Quarriers. I would have visited them between once a year and once every couple of years. It wasn't often but it was often enough. I never saw [REDACTED] at all during any of his foster placements.

#### *Inspections*

45. I don't remember any inspections. If there was an inspection it wasn't something we were involved in. It may have happened behind the scenes.

#### *Healthcare*

46. I don't ever remember seeing a doctor whilst I was in Quarriers. I remember seeing an optometrist once or twice and being given a pair of prescription glasses. There was a dentist. I saw him the odd time through the school.
47. I did end up in hospital one time. [REDACTED] threw a stick with a nail hanging out of it at me. He did that during one of our tussles at school. The nail ripped part of my ear. I was taken to hospital to get stitches. When I got back to Quarriers I shouted at [REDACTED] I told him that he couldn't do what he did with me. I was told by the QAY/QEI [REDACTED] that because I had words with [REDACTED] he wasn't to be punished. I was told that they wanted nothing to do with it.

48. At one point I got to a stage where I did what I had to do and nothing else. I just stayed out of everybody's hair. I kept myself to myself. I had a phrase for how I reacted to it all. I learnt to 'seagull.' I kept my head down and tried to forget about everything. I did everything I needed to do and tried to make as little a footprint as I could. I tried to not be there. I just got on with it.
49. I didn't realise it at the time but I got quite good at doing that. I was ignoring people. People were talking to me and I was reacting as if they weren't there. I don't know how long I ended up being like that or how quick it got bad. It was as if I was there and I wasn't there all at the same time.
50. I ended up seeing a psychiatrist. The psychiatrist had an office by the gate house at Quarriers. I don't know who referred me but it obviously must have been someone in Quarriers. I only saw him one time that I can remember. I didn't know, as a child, why I was being sent to see him. During the session I had to look at cards and tell them what I saw. I remember getting handed a tennis ball by the psychiatrist and being told it was an apple. It could have been the other way around. I just thought to myself that the psychiatrist didn't know what he was talking about. I couldn't understand what it all meant. I couldn't relate with the psychiatrist so I couldn't give him anything.
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51. I ended up getting sent to a hospital in Glasgow to have my hearing checked out. I saw an ear doctor. They wondered whether I was going deaf and that might explain why I was ignoring people. That was explained to me. I think that was when I realised why I had been to see the psychiatrist. During the hearing consultation they pressed buttons and asked me whether I heard various sounds. I could hear them all. I think that was when Quarriers discovered that I was just not paying attention to what was going on about me.

*Running away*

52. I never ran away because I never thought about doing anything like that.

*Bed-wetting*

53. Some of the children wet the bed. I never wet the bed myself. You knew that if someone wet the bed then they would 'get it'. They 'got it' because it was causing the house parents more work. I remember seeing children get beaten by the QAY/QEI because they had wet the bed. Ninety nine percent of the time it was Mrs QEI By the time we went to bed the aunties would have left.
54. The wet beds were normally discovered in the mornings. If it was discovered during the night then the boy who had wet the bed would have to sleep in those wet sheets all night. I can't really remember who eventually changed the sheets.
55. There was one occasion where [REDACTED] really upset me. I knew that he wet the bed. I made his bed wet to get him back. I wanted to get him into trouble because he had got me into trouble. I knew that [REDACTED] would get punished if he was thought to have wet his bed. I got caught though. It backfired on me. I got beaten for doing that. Mrs QEI kicked my head in. I ended up having to sleep under [REDACTED] bed. Mrs QEI made me sleep there. When I woke up in the morning I was in my own bed. I don't know who put me into my own bed but somebody must have put me there.

**Abuse in cottage 7**

Mr and Mrs QAY/QEI

56. Mrs QEI didn't care who was there. She would do whatever she wanted to do in front of everybody. I think that was part of it. It was to show the other kids that this is what they would get if they weren't behaving. When Mrs QEI beat you it was always with her hands and feet. I don't remember her using any implements. It was mostly just kicking and punching.

57. When Mr <sup>QAY</sup> gave you a beating it was always done behind everybody's back. Nobody else knew what was going on. Mr <sup>QAY</sup> was involved in a couple of the beatings. I can't remember exactly how many. I know he wasn't involved in most of them. Mrs <sup>QEI</sup> was more the evil one.
58. I'm pretty sure that the problems started after [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] left. The first bad thing I remember happening followed having a dispute with the <sup>QAY/QEI</sup> s son, [REDACTED]. That was about a year to a year and a half after going to Quarriers. We had been out playing. [REDACTED] had fallen and hurt himself. His fall was nothing to do with me but [REDACTED] said it was. When I was asked by the <sup>QAY/QEI</sup> what happened I had a different story to [REDACTED] s. Because I had a different story I was deemed to be in the wrong. I got the snot kicked out of me by Mr and Mrs <sup>QAY/QEI</sup>. I was leathered. I remember being on the ground. I was lying in a foetal position. Mr and Mrs <sup>QAY/QEI</sup> were kicking into me. They kicked me on my back, around my head and on my legs. After that the beatings got more frequent. It got to the point where there were one or two beatings a week.
59. There were plenty of other things that Mrs <sup>QEI</sup> did by way of punishment. Looking back now I wonder whether she was just trying things out to see whether they worked. I can't say for sure that all the punishments I was given were given to the other children in the cottage. I don't know whether it was just me that Mrs <sup>QEI</sup> didn't like. I can't remember.
60. All the cottages had a shed attached to the back of them. They used to be called 'sheds' but they were more like a glass lean-tos at the back of the building. The shed had a stone floor. One of the punishments Mrs <sup>QEI</sup> gave out was sending you down to the shed in your pyjamas in the middle of the night. Mrs <sup>QEI</sup> gave that punishment out quite a lot. She would make you do that for things like talking at night after curfew. When I was in the shed I was always on my own. The door was locked and the lights were off. It was cold. You were just in your terry towel pyjamas. You would be left there for hours. You were left there until you fell asleep. Someone would come in and wake you and send you to your bed. I can't remember who would send you back to bed. All I remember is being sent back to bed.

61. Sometimes Mrs <sup>QEI</sup> would make you hold books in either hand with your arms stretched out. I remember there sometimes being three kids doing that at the same time. As soon as you dropped the books you got a beating from Mrs <sup>QEI</sup>. It was sore. Other times she would make you sleep on the floor.
62. Mrs <sup>QEI</sup> would give you punishments for anything she didn't like. It could be for talking too loud or talking after you went to bed. A lot of it seemed to be for things that happened after we went to bed. I remember one time one of the boys left a floater in the toilet. It wasn't me. We all got a beating from Mrs <sup>QEI</sup> because of that.
63. <sup>QEL</sup> the <sup>QAY/QEI</sup> older son, lost a watch. He blamed either myself or <sup>QEL</sup> for it. I told <sup>QEL</sup> that it wasn't me. <sup>QEL</sup> said that it wasn't him. I was beaten up by Mrs <sup>QEI</sup> because of that. I remember then being sat down and made to watch Mrs <sup>QEI</sup> beat <sup>QEL</sup>. Whilst that was happening I said I had stolen the watch, even though it hadn't been me. I wanted to stop <sup>QEL</sup> getting beaten further. I was then beaten up by Mrs <sup>QEI</sup> again for not admitting that I had taken the watch and letting <sup>QEL</sup> get beaten. After that I was asked where I had put the watch. I told Mrs <sup>QEI</sup> that I had buried it. Mrs <sup>QEI</sup> then sent me outside with a metal spoon. I ended up having to pretend to dig up the watch for a while. I don't remember how long I did that for. In the end I sneaked back into the cottage. I can't remember what happened next.

<sup>QEL</sup>

64. <sup>QEL</sup> had some airguns. He had two. He had a normal one and one that you could put more tension in. He mostly picked on <sup>QEL</sup> but he did used to shoot those airguns at both of us. <sup>QEL</sup> was not a nice person. I think that he was like that because he had seen the way his parents were acting.

*Sexual abuse by unknown female*

65. One day I was taken into the showers by a girl who was older than me. I would have been either nine or ten but I am not sure. I can't remember who the girl was. All I remember was that she was sixteen years old or older. I don't know whether she was a staff member or one of the older girls in Quarriers. I remember she had pubic hair. I had to pleasure her. It didn't happen whilst the showers were on or whilst I was showering. It just happened in the shower room.

*Abuse in other cottages*

66. From what I heard from the other kids, cottage 7 was one of the better cottages. I remember the phrase being used that I was in one of the "better places." That term was used a lot. I remember there were a lot of cottages where the kids weren't even allowed out. You just never ever saw kids from certain cottages.
67. I remember threats from the [REDACTED] QAY/QEI [REDACTED]. They would say that if I didn't behave myself I would be sent to cottage 'thirty something'. They would say things like "you know, what happens in this or that cottage." I don't remember the exact number of the cottage but it was always the same cottage threatened. I was left with the impression from the [REDACTED] QAY/QEI [REDACTED] and the other kids that there were always worse cottages I could be in. I don't remember staff members talking about what happened in other cottages. It was just the [REDACTED] QAY/QEI [REDACTED] and other kids.
68. I never went into any of the cottages. I don't know why but the kids didn't really make friends with the kids in other cottages. I don't know whether it was forbidden. It just didn't seem to really happen. You only tended to deal with the kids who were in the same cottage as you. However, I did speak to other kids whilst I was out wandering around in Quarriers grounds. There were a lot of other kids doing the same thing as me. They were staying out of people's hair just like me. There was a lot of talk about the other cottages. I remember sexual things being talked about happening in the other cottages by some of the kids. I didn't have a clue about what that meant at the time. I only really came to realise what they were talking about

when I was older. I remember boys kidding on that there had been a murder in one of the cottages. I also remember boys saying that I was lucky to be in the cottage I was in because 'such and such' happens in 'such and such' a cottage.

#### **Reporting of abuse at cottage 7**

69. After the first time I was really laid into by Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] I told my social work what happened when they came to see me. That was after the beating I received following [REDACTED] falling over. I think it was a female social worker who I spoke to. It was a Glasgow City Council social worker. I remember having two social workers called Anne around that time so there's a good chance she was called Anne.
70. I was still in bed recovering from the beating. I had bruises on me. I must have had them on my face. I told the social worker that Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] had kicked my head in. I explained to her that the reason I was in my bed was because I had just been beaten up. The social worker then went away to speak to Mr and Mrs [REDACTED]. The social worker came back and essentially said that it was fine. She said that it had just been discipline. I was told that the [REDACTED] had a lot of kids to discipline and that they had to discipline the kids in some way. That was it. I just accepted that. I accepted that what the [REDACTED] were doing was just the way it was.
71. I remember at some point having a conversation with one of my social workers. It was one of the ones that was called Anne. She knew what I was going through. I felt she was sympathising with me. I remember talking with her about things a wee bit and her telling me that things would get better when I left.
72. I told a social worker about the incident with the girl in the showers. I think it was a female social worker I told. The social worker asked me whether I enjoyed it. I told the social worker that it had made me feel sick. The social worker then said that it didn't happen. I was told by the social worker that because I didn't enjoy it, it didn't happen. That was that. That was how it was left off. I didn't understand that. My

social worker then told the QAY/QEI That resulted in me getting another kicking. I got given a kicking because I was 'grassing someone up.'

73. Whilst I was cottage 7 I knew it was a waste of time telling anyone what was happening. I knew what was happening wasn't right at the time but I also felt it wasn't wrong. I was told it was just discipline so I just accepted it. I didn't bother. There was no point in saying anything to anybody.

### **Leaving cottage 7**

74. I was told by my social worker that I was going about a couple of days before I left. They rushed me to my first foster placement. Social services just wanted to get me out of Quarriers. They didn't have a very good system for placing children. I would've thought there would have been some visits from the potential foster parents or the chance for me to go and see them in their home. There was nothing like that happened. I was just taken by my social worker to the foster parents.

### **Foster placement, unnamed elderly couple, Ayrshire**

75. I was only with the foster couple for a week to two weeks at the most. I was about eleven. I wasn't with them long. I was there just about long enough to see the bunk beds arrive for me. I was fine with them.
76. The foster parents were an elderly couple. They lived somewhere in Ayrshire up in the hills. I don't know exactly where but it was out in the country. The foster parents' family had all grown up and moved on. They bred jack russels for hunting or coursing. They had hundreds of fox skins around the house. They were a great wee old couple.
77. I was sent to two schools during the two weeks I was fostered. I remember I was reviewed in a primary school over one or two days before they decided I would be

better placed in a secondary school. I then went to a secondary school. I was there for about a week.

### **Leaving first foster placement with unnamed elderly couple**

78. I remember bringing back ten, possibly twenty, kids back to the house. I did that a couple of nights. The foster parents were used to having an empty house and, all of a sudden, they had all these kids running about the house. They just couldn't cope. I think that because I had been at Quarriers for so many years and had got my freedom I became a bit of a tearaway. The couple said that they couldn't cope because of the amount of boisterousness there was.
79. I was at the age when I was starting to come into myself. I think I was just at the age where I enjoyed being the centre of attention. The foster couple just couldn't cope with that. I think I was placed with a couple who weren't suitable.
80. In the end I left one day after I came back from school. When I came into the house I found my social worker sitting there with my suitcases. I threw a wee strop. My social worker took me away. I remember it being soul destroying being sent back to Quarriers.

### **Quarriers Village, Bridger of Weir – cottage 4**

81. I went straight to cottage 4 when I returned. I was about eleven years old. Cottage 4 was at the end of Quarriers by a big massive community hall. I never had anything to do with cottage 7 or the QAY/QEI after I returned.

### *The Dunbars*

82. The house parents were called the Dunbars. I don't remember their first names. They were a really nice couple. I don't think they had kids of their own. They had

time for us. I remember you could actually talk to the house parents and the other children.

83. Mr Dunbar used to keep going to these meetings in the gate office. I think that's why I think he had something to do with running Quarriers. I felt that he had responsibilities that other people didn't have. He used to breed fish. He had a room in the cottage full of fish tanks. He used to go to fish shows. He sometimes used to let me into his room full of aquariums to see the fish.

#### *The children in cottage 4*

84. I think there were a few less children in the cottage than cottage 7. I wonder whether that was because they were beginning to close Quarriers down. It was both girls and boys. There's only one kid that I can clearly remember from all my time in Quarriers. I got to know him after I moved to cottage 4. He was called [REDACTED]. I got to know him right at the end. We got on like a house on fire. He was in a wheelchair. He had muscular dystrophy. His big sister was in cottage 4 with us.
85. I phoned cottage 4 after I left care to see whether [REDACTED] was still there. I was told that he was. I jumped on a bus with a pal of mine at the time. When I got to Quarriers I discovered that [REDACTED] had died. The person who had picked up the phone had meant "he is still here" in the sense that he was buried at Quarriers. I remember thinking that they could have told me over the phone that [REDACTED] had died.

#### **Routine at cottage 4**

##### *School*

86. When I went back to Quarriers I went to Linwood High School.

*Mealtimes / food*

87. I got my lunch from a wee corner shop by the school. I must've been given an allowance for lunch every day by the house parents.

*Religious instruction*

88. The Dunbars introduced me to the minister at Quarriers church. I'd always gone to church but I'd never properly met the minister. The minister was a great guy. He gave me a fishing rod and let me do some fishing. I think it was after that that things started getting good.

*Leisure time*

89. There was a television room. You had to ask permission to go into there. I remember watching television in that room.
90. There was something called the 'Fuzzy Wuzzy Club'. It was held every Saturday morning in the community hall. The kids could vent and have fun. It was a place that you could go and let your hair down. There were shows and events. I remember playing games like pass the parcel. The only problem with the club was that they treated you like a kid. At the age of fourteen or fifteen you were playing with six year olds. Back then you didn't know anything different.

*Trips*

91. I remember we were taken out at New Year to meet some relations of the Dunbars. The relations could have been the Dunbars' older grown up children but I can't say that for sure. I was about thirteen or fourteen. They took about eight or ten of us in a minibus. It was all the kids from cottage 4. We drove to the house in the middle of the night. I was given a new year's drink. I thought it was minging. I can't remember what it was. It was probably the first time I had alcohol. We probably only spent an hour or two there before driving back. It was weird.

*Visits and contact with family*

92. My grandmothers were found by social services when I was about twelve or thirteen. I was visited by my social worker and told that. I went to stay with my Grandma [REDACTED]. I went to stay with her overnight on my own a couple of times. I don't know what the visits were about. It could be that social services were testing the water to see whether it would be possible for me to go and stay with her. She didn't have anywhere for me to sleep. I had to sleep on her couch. I ended up having a decent relationship with my Grandma [REDACTED].
93. At one point a social worker came to see me to tell me that they were in contact with my mother. I don't know whether social services had found her or whether my mother had contacted social services. I was told that she was coming to see me. I wasn't given the choice whether I wanted to see her. If I had been I would've wanted to have seen her anyway. When she visited she came to the cottage. She explained that she had split up with my father and come to an arrangement where my siblings and I would stay with my father and she would leave. I discovered that she had got married to another man called [REDACTED]. She said she wasn't in a position for me to go and stay with her. I remember doing one overnight with my mother and [REDACTED]. They lived in Glasgow at the time. I can't remember exactly whereabouts. After that overnight stay my mother split up with [REDACTED] and disappeared again.
94. I know that my mother also saw my siblings about that time. I know that my mother caused [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] foster placement to fall apart. She filled their heads with stuff and they started going off the rails. [REDACTED] stayed in her foster placement until she was about sixteen. Social services then put her up in her own house. [REDACTED] however, was under sixteen when the foster placement broke down. He ended up staying with my mum.

*Discipline and punishment*

95. Cottage 4 was nice. It was a really good place to live. We weren't beaten in cottage 4. The Dunbars didn't do anything silly to us. I had the freedom to do my own thing a wee bit more. I came out of my shell a wee bit. I knew I wouldn't get my head kicked in for saying the wrong thing. I remember it being a far better place.
96. On one occasion I was taking the bus from Quarriers to my school in Airdrie. The bus broke down en route. It broke down a couple of corners along from the school. We could see the school from where the bus broke down. We decided we wanted to walk back to Quarriers and not the school. A bus eventually came to collect us and take us to school. We ended up missing an hour of classes during the day. We weren't punished when we got back though. If that had happened in cottage 7 we would have been leathered for doing that. I think we were just told off.
97. I remember dogging school one day. I told the Dunbars that I was sick when I wasn't. I was sent to my bed. A couple of hours later on I was caught by one of the Dunbars playing. It was obvious I wasn't sick. Nothing happened though. I think I was just told off. You just wouldn't get away with doing something like that in cottage 7.

**Leaving cottage 4**

98. The arrangements for the second foster placement were pretty much the same as the first one. I didn't get to meet my respective foster parents before going to stay with them. There wasn't any lead in. I was just told I was being fostered out by my social worker. I was told that nobody wanted to foster older kids. I was told that the majority of foster parents wanted babies or very young kids. I don't know why my social worker thought it was necessary to tell me those things. I think social services ended up taking the first people who said they would foster me.

**Foster placement, the [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Chapelhall, North  
Lanarkshire**

99. I went to stay with the [REDACTED] aged about fourteen. I stayed with them for about a year. The [REDACTED] told me that they had only taken me to get street cred. They told me that as soon as I would be turning sixteen social work would be getting me a house and I would be moving out. That's all they were interested in. I ended up being with them for a year at most.
100. The [REDACTED] had a young son and daughter of their own. The son was called [REDACTED]. He was young. He was probably less than ten years old. I can't remember the daughter's name. They only had two bedrooms. When I first moved there I shared a room with [REDACTED]. After eight or ten months [REDACTED] was moved out of his bedroom into the room with his sister. I think that was because the [REDACTED] thought I had become an adolescent. I was given a room on my own.
101. I remember being given the 'birds and the bees' talk by the [REDACTED]. Believe it or not they told me how to use a tampon. I still don't know why they took me aside and gave me that talk.

*Contact with family*

102. I didn't see any of my siblings during that year. I remember hoping that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] would be settled in. By that time [REDACTED] was with my grandmother. As far as I was concerned everything was going fairly well for my siblings and I.

*School*

103. I went to a secondary school in Airdrie. I settled into the secondary school. I made a few good pals.

*Visits*

104. There must have been visits by my social worker whilst I was with the [REDACTED] but I don't remember them.

*Problems surrounding stealing [REDACTED]'s friends*

105. I ended up stealing all of [REDACTED]'s pals. I don't know why I did that. I was hanging around with all of these seven or eight year olds feeling as if I was the king of the castle. It was the [REDACTED] who pointed out that I was fourteen and that I should be hanging around with kids my own age. They told me that I had to think about who I was hanging about with. That's when I realised that I really had to be thinking about these sort of things myself. It felt like a bit of a defining moment coming to that realisation. Looking back, I think I hung about with younger kids because I didn't know anything better. I think that me trying to steal all of [REDACTED]'s pals was the only real issue with me during the second foster placement.

**Leaving foster placement with the [REDACTED]**

106. I think the final straw for the [REDACTED] was when their children were trying to get into my room. I shoved [REDACTED] out and told him to get back to his room. That evening the [REDACTED] made me pack my suitcase. They told me to go to the main road in Chapelhall and wait for a social worker to come and pick me up. They must have then phoned my social worker. I had to wait on the main road for my social worker to turn up. When I was collected by my social worker I was told that the way the [REDACTED] had got me to leave wasn't the way that things should have been done. I remember the social worker being angry about the way the [REDACTED] had made me leave.

### **Life after being in care**

#### *Time spent with Grandma [REDACTED]*

107. After the breakdown of my foster placement with the [REDACTED] I got put in with my Grandma [REDACTED]. For whatever reason social services didn't want to put me back in Quarriers. At that point I hadn't ever visited my Grandma [REDACTED] nor had she ever visited me. I was about fifteen.
108. My Grandma lived in Dennistoun in Glasgow. It was a large flat but there were only three bedrooms. She didn't really have enough room for me because she had my two uncles living with her as well as [REDACTED]. She made it abundantly clear that she couldn't cope with her two grown up boys, [REDACTED] and me. My uncles didn't really want me there. It was made very clear by both Grandma [REDACTED] and my uncles that they didn't want me there and I shouldn't be there.
109. I went to Whitehill school. I remember when the O-Levels were starting the teacher just told me that it was a waste of time me going for them. They still let me sit the exams though. I can't remember what I sat but I sat a handful of exams. I never even got my results through the door. To this day I don't know how I did.
110. No social worker came to visit me during the time I stayed with Grandma [REDACTED]. As soon they dumped me on my gran I never saw anything of them again. On my sixteenth birthday I walked out the door. I'd had enough. I wanted to strike out on my own. Luckily it turned out ok after that.

#### *Life after turning sixteen*

111. Between leaving my Grandma's place and turning twenty one I was constantly moving. To begin with I couch surfed at friends for a while. I ended up staying with a gay gentleman in Govanhill. He was a friend of a friend. He had a spare room. After that I ended up living in a static caravan. I remember it being freezing cold in

the winter. I was there for under a year. I had no money because all the money I was earning was going on rent.

112. I eventually ended up getting referred to the Hamish Allan Centre in Glasgow. At the time they were based on George Square. They dealt with homeless people. I explained to them that I was living in a caravan. They told me that that was no good. They ended up sorting a house for me on my own. My rent was subsidised for me. Even with that I was still using up my whole wage to pay for the house. I was left with something like £3 a week. I used to live on a diet of custard creams and pot noodles because that was all I could afford. I lived on that for months. Looking back, I wasn't really ready to have my own place.
113. I then met a girl. I ended up moving in with her at her mother's place. I lasted a wee while there. Things went wrong when the mother decided that she wanted to sleep with me. I didn't want that. I ended up leaving my girlfriend's house after that and getting my own place again.
114. I met my wife to be, [REDACTED] when I was twenty one. She ended up moving in with me. We are married and have four children. They are now fifteen, sixteen, eighteen and nineteen.

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### *Work*

115. When I left school I had to sign on. I was told during my first meeting at the job centre that I had to go onto a Youth Training Scheme. I got put into a YTS scheme. I did that for a couple of years. I was trained to do word programming on computers.
116. I ended up getting sent on work placements. One was to a place where they put microfiches onto computers. It was horrible. Another was a placement in an old folks home working as a carer. I then ended up getting a job placement at a window cleaning supplies business. I worked on the phones. I found out when I was there that the locksmiths next door was looking for someone to help out. I got a job there

as a bench locksmith. I have worked there ever since. Luckily I was in the right place at the right time.

## **Impact**

### *Education*

117. During my time in care I went to five or six schools. I never got a cohesive education because I was always changing schools. I remember teachers in my secondary schools feeling sorry for me. I remember them telling me to sit there doing what I was doing whilst the rest of the class were getting on with the lesson. I was too far behind the other kids in the class. Nothing was done by my social workers or the teachers to help me catch up. Nobody took charge.
118. My lack of education could have had a bigger impact than it has on me. I've been lucky to get the job that I have now. I think that if I hadn't got that job I would have struggled. I don't know where I would be if I hadn't have fallen into my job.

### *Life skills*

119. I'm still annoyed by the fact that Quarriers didn't teach me any life skills. Quarriers didn't do anything in terms of care. They just left you to rot. They didn't care. They didn't give you any sex education at all. I think that they didn't want you to know anything in case there was intermingling between the boys and the girls. I remember that when I had my first true girlfriend I didn't have a clue what 'getting off with someone' meant. I thought that my girlfriend wanted full sex. I was nervous about that.
120. I think that if I had been taught some life skills I would have been able to cope as soon as I was put into my own flat. Hamish Allan went out of their way to help me getting a flat but I couldn't cope. I didn't know what to do.

*Effect on closeness with family*

121. I don't think [REDACTED] and I remained close because of all of the beatings. I wouldn't say we turned on each other but we resented each other a bit. We weren't helping each other out. We both ended up trying to get on with our own lives and not being the centre of attention in cottage 7. I think that's what caused us to drift apart.
122. It's been twenty five years since I spoke to my siblings. It's partly because of the way I was brought up but it's also partly voluntary. I decided to move on. I hope they are all doing alright with themselves. I don't want to contact them and upset the lives that they have set up for themselves. I do think it would have been different if we had all been kept together when we were children.

*Physical health*

123. I was told by an optometrist in later life that I should have worn glasses as a child. I can only see properly out of one eye because I didn't wear the glasses that had been given to me as a kid. Nobody had made me do that. The optometrist told me that if I had worn glasses then my eyesight would probably be fine now. I think Quarriers should have taken more care of me in that way. They should have made me wear glasses.
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124. I found out as an adult that I had had broken fingers when I was little. I don't remember that happening. It may have happened during one of the beatings and I haven't noticed it. My fingers are now out of shape because of it though.
125. I'm a wee bit worried about the effects of being kicked and punched about the head when I was a kid. I remember how bad the beatings were. I now realise that I must have had concussion a couple of times. I think it may have affected my hearing. I'm sort of worried about that. I'm more worried that the injuries I sustained will have an effect on me as I get older. Is it all going to come back? I'd love to get an x-ray to see how much damage they have actually done. Sometimes I get dizzy. Sometimes I struggle to get out of bed because of the dizziness. Doctors have looked into my

dizziness but they have said that they can't do anything. They have said that if it starts to happen more often they will investigate things further. I don't know whether the beatings have injured my brain. If I get dementia or something I am going to wonder whether it is because of what happened when I was a kid.

*Effect on mental health and attitudes*

126. I will not discipline my kids. I am a bit of a pushover. My wife has had to cope with being the alpha parent. I know I am like that because of my upbringing. I don't want to go down the road of being anywhere near treating my kids the way I was treated.
127. One of my coping mechanisms is that as soon as I move from one place to another the old place is gone. It's as if I have moved from one life to another. I move on and forget about the old life. Once I move on I just don't care. In a way I regret some of that. I've lost so many friends because of that. I'm glad that I have met my wife. She has anchored me and kept me in the same place for the last twenty odd years. I feel that I am a lot better now because I have been in this same life for so long.
128. I did attempt to take my own life at one time but I wasn't really trying to kill myself. It was all just a cry for help. I don't think I was suicidal or anything. I think it was just to say to those around me that I wasn't coping with where I was at that time.

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*Treatment*

129. I've never had any counselling, treatment or support in adult life. The only time I have seen anyone was when I saw the psychiatrist in Quarriers as a child. I've never been part of any support group. I have researched into groups for people who were at Quarriers. I found out that a lot of people who have been to these groups have ended up committing suicide. I think that's what has made me stay clear of them. I don't want to get involved with people who are that stressed about it all.

## Reporting of Abuse

130. When I was sixteen I told everybody I could find about what had happened to me. I think I was doing that to get it out of my system. Doing that had the added benefit of getting people to feel sorry for me around me. I think I needed that at the time to try and get people to help look after me. After a couple of years of telling everybody I could find about what had happened I stopped. I never thought about it again. I've never spoken to the police about anything that happened in Quarriers.

## Records

### *The Life Book or Life Album*

131. When I first went to Quarriers my social worker made me create what they called either a 'Life Book' or a 'Life Album'. What went in there was a couple of stories about my life before I went into care. I felt silly filling the book in. I didn't know what to put in. My social worker then said to just make it up. I was told that if I couldn't remember anything I should just put in anything I felt like. I ended up putting in a story about [REDACTED] and I playing in my dad's garden. I said that I had been out playing football and I had kicked the ball into a hedge. I said that [REDACTED] went after the ball and pulled out a wasps nest instead of the ball.
132. A couple of months later I discovered that [REDACTED] was going about telling everybody about the incident when she pulled a wasp nest out of the hedge. She must have read my Life Book. She actually still thinks that this happened. All this blows me away. She believes something because I was made to make something up. She believes that this all happened because she trusts me. My experience with [REDACTED] and the Life Book has taught me that you should only say what you actually remember. It was a lesson to me. It's made me really careful about what I say to people. I don't want them thinking something that is not true.

133. I had the Life Book for quite a few years. I can't really remember much about what else was in it. It had some stories and a couple of photographs from my past life. One of the photos was of my dad. He was far off in the distance. The other one was me as a kid in my school uniform. Both the photographs had been given to me by Grandma [REDACTED]. After I moved in with my Grandma [REDACTED] she found out about the Life Book. She told me that she didn't want it in the house. She made me destroy it. She insisted that I did that.

*Photograph in fostering magazine*

134. I remember that there was a fostering magazine that might have been quarterly. I don't know whether it was done through Quarriers. During the first year of being at Quarriers a photograph was taken of myself and my siblings. I don't know who took it. It ended up going into one of those magazines. I'd love to see that picture again.

*Attempt to recover Quarrier's records*

135. I went to the social work department in Glasgow in adult life. I asked them to let me see all my records from my time in Quarriers. I wanted to see what Quarriers had actually been saying about me. I never thought about asking for my social work records. I was only concerned with my records from Quarriers.

136. I ended up having to go back a few times to the social work department in Glasgow to see whether they had got my records from Quarriers. I remember being told that a lot of the records, when they were made available, would be blacked out. I was told that I would only be getting what was relevant to me. I was fine about that because that was all I wanted to see. The last time I went back to social services I was told that my records had been destroyed by Quarriers. Whether that is true or not I am not sure. I've ended up never seeing anything. I would love to see my records. I will continue trying to get hold of them. I will ask to see both my social work records and any records from Quarriers.

**Learning about why I was placed into care in later life**

137. When I was fourteen or fifteen one of my social workers told me that my dad had placed my siblings and I into care because he couldn't cope. Apparently he had approached the social work department and asked for support but hadn't been given any. I can't remember the name of the social worker who told me that. You hear of children being dumped and there are police investigations. There was no investigation when we were dumped. I now wonder whether the police weren't contacted because the social work department already knew that my dad wasn't coping.

**Lessons to be Learned**

138. One of the problems with Quarriers is that there were forty four cottages. Some of them were good and some of them were bad. I don't know how many were good and how many were bad. If you were in one of the good cottages then you aren't going to have anything bad to say.
139. The authorities have already learned that the way Quarriers were looking after children was not the right way to do things. They've already learned that the big institutions aren't the right places to care for children. They've learnt that it doesn't work. I know they've shut Quarriers down. I know that the policy is now to keep kids in smaller groups. To me that's a far better way to do things. To me the main problem nowadays is funding. They need far more money to better look after kids who go into these systems.
140. One of the problems with Quarriers was that the house parents had their own family living in the cottage with them. It created a sense of 'double standards.' It was obvious that the house parents would be treating their own kids better than any of the other children. I think that you can't have a family looking after a place whilst their own family is there. It doesn't work.

141. I have had recent dealings with social services. I have mentioned Quarriers. I have heard people saying that they hadn't heard of Quarriers. I think everybody in social services should know about Quarriers. I wondered how the hell they hadn't heard of it. I want people to know about Quarriers. I want people to know what happened. I want people to know that I am not making it up. That's all I care about.

142. 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.

QDU  


Signed .....

Dated 7/6/18 .....