

Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry

Witness Statement of

GGA

Support person present: No

1. My name is GGA. My date of birth is 1966. My contact details are known to the Inquiry.

Life before going into care

2. I was admitted to care when I was two years old. I was always of the impression that my mother had died of cancer, my father had deserted her and my five brothers and sisters, and me, were taken into care. When I was twelve years old and fostered, I found out that wasn't true. Social workers came to me and told me I had been adopted into that family. It was a family adoption, my mother gave me to her brother. My mother's brother's wife died and all the children ended up in care.
3. We lived in Barlanark, Glasgow. I have five brothers and sisters. is the oldest. My oldest sister, is eleven years older than me. She was adopted too. goes by her middle name, . Then there's , , then myself. There are about three years between me and . My adoptive parents were called and . came to visit my sisters, brothers and me a lot when I was in Quarriers.

Institutions

4. I went into the Campbell Snowden Baby Home in Quarriers Village when I was two years old. I am not sure of my age when I was moved around after that. The ages given are approximate and to the best of my memory. I was moved to Cottage 12 when I was very young, then to Cottage 20 when I was seven or eight years old. When I was about ten years old, I went to Cottage 13. Then, when I was twelve years old, I was fostered in Dumbarton. The foster placement broke down after a short time and I went to Blairvadoch Children's Home in Rhu for a few months.

5. I was returned to Quarriers when I was twelve and half years old and placed in Cottage 38 for a few months. From there, I returned to Cottage 13, again for a few months. When I was thirteen years old, I was moved to Cottage 4. I was almost fourteen years old when I went to Marthara House, in Glasgow. I was fourteen when I was sent to Wallacewell Children's Home, in Glasgow, and almost fifteen when I was sent to Burnside Assessment Centre, in Dundee. Finally, I was in Maxton House in Glasgow until I left care at sixteen years of age.

Campbell Snowden Baby Home, Quarriers Village

6. I went to the baby home because I was only two years old. The baby home was only for babies. My brothers and sisters were in different cottages because they were older than me. When I was four or five years old, in 1970 or 1971, I was transferred to Cottage 12 before I went to school.

Social Workers employed at Quarriers Village and at the Local Authority

7. There were a few internal social workers at Quarriers that I remember who I don't want to remember. I'm dubious about them. I don't know why. They are LRE, Joe Nicholson and George McGill. There was Joe Broussard. He was nice. The social workers were based in an office called Homelea. Early on, we didn't have an outside

social worker. Later, my social worker from Glasgow was Rosemary McMurray. She was nice.

Cottage 12, Quarriers Village

8. I was put into Cottage 12 with my sisters, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], and my brother [REDACTED]. My brothers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were separated and were in other cottages. [REDACTED] was fifteen or sixteen years old and was being prepared to leave. I was in Cottage 12 for two to four years.

Routine in Cottage 12

9. I don't have many memories of Cottage 12, except having to eat cold food. I think the way I was treated has a lot to do with why I can't remember much of Cottage 12 or it might be to do with the 'medicine' we were given on Sunday night. Every Sunday, visitors came to Cottage 12. All the children would be given a spoonful of medicine. The house parents said it was castor oil or cod liver oil. I don't know if that is what it was.
10. The general, day to day routine was the same in every cottage in Quarriers. You got up, did all your chores before breakfast, had your breakfast and went to school. You came back to the cottage at dinnertime and had your dinner. At night-time, you had your tea. In Cottage 12, cold food was served for days, until you ate it and you were being sick. My brother [REDACTED] was force fed food. It was barbaric.
11. The house parents were QCX [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. My sister has told me that when we got up in the morning, you had to make corners on your bedding. I wasn't very good. QCX-SPO [REDACTED] weren't happy about the way I made beds. [REDACTED] would cover for me. She would quickly have breakfast and run back up to do the bed for me. There were two dormitories, a boys and a girls.

12. I wet the bed. It wasn't a good thing to be a bed wetter in Cottage 12 or Cottage 20. I think I got hammered in Cottage 12 for that. Sometimes [REDACTED] would take me into her bed, I'd wet her bed and she'd get hammered.
13. I went to school when I was five years old. I vaguely remember going to school but only for one day. The school was in Quarriers Village.
14. I peed outside one day. I was set to work on big churn. I had to clean it inside and out. That was my punishment.

Abuse in Cottage 12

15. My first memory of Quarriers is of being in Cottage 12. I had an orange candlewick bed cover. I pulled the bedcover down, onto to my body. I put the knuckles of my hands on each top corner of the bed cover and did the same with my feet, to stop somebody getting in the bed. Then I would dream of snakes. I often wonder why did I do that?
16. I was very young in Cottage 12. Maybe because I was young and for other reasons, I don't remember. I think sexual things happened to me in Cottage 12 that helped another sexual thing happen to me, later on. Why else would an eight, nine or ten year old be allowing things to happen, if they've not been exposed to that previously?
17. My sister [REDACTED] has told me that Mr ^{QCX}[REDACTED] would come to the bedrooms at night and stand at the girl's beds. Every girl had the blanket tight, up to their necks. Mr ^{QCX}[REDACTED] would put his hands under the side of the blanket and grope. If any of the girls were talking, he would get them out of bed and stand them in the corner. The girls had to wear a night shirt, never pyjamas. Mr ^{QCX}[REDACTED] would stare at them.
18. [REDACTED] told me that Mr ^{QCX}[REDACTED] would sit between the girls and drape his arms over the girl's shoulders and fondle their breasts. He called the girls into the sitting room on the pretext of having a chat. Mr ^{QCX}[REDACTED] would take [REDACTED] hand and rub it on his crotch.

He had an erection. No words were spoken. Mr ^{QCX} tried to put his hand up [REDACTED] skirt. She kept her legs firmly closed. Mr ^{QCX} made continual sexual remarks.

Leaving Cottage 12

19. I went to Cottage 20 when I was seven or eight years old.

Cottage 20, Quarriers Village

20. In Cottage 20 were me, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. My brother, [REDACTED], went to the hostel. The hostel is preparation for leaving. [REDACTED] had gone to a girl's hostel in Glasgow. The cottage mother was ^{QHP} [REDACTED]. She was single. Miss ^{QHP} [REDACTED] had a cottage aunty. I can't remember the cottage aunty's name.

Routine at Cottage 20

21. The day to day routine was the same in all of the cottages. After breakfast, you did your chores, like washing up dishes. One child would wash and one would dry. You would set tables. You would mop the back sheds. You had to have your bed made with 'hospital corners' before you were allowed downstairs. I wet the bed. I got hammered for that. Clothes went to the laundry for washing.

Mealtimes / Food

22. We got proper meals but not enough for growing kids. I was always hungry. Quarriers didn't withhold food. You had breakfast, toast and cereal. Dinner was meat, potatoes and vegetables. You had a sandwich at night time. There was no force feeding in Cottage 20. We weren't allowed sugar in our tea. We weren't allowed butter. When you got to a certain age, you were allowed sugar. By that time, you didn't take it.

Leisure time

23. Everything was based in Quarriers. There was ballet and gymnastics in Weir Hall, in Quarriers. Everything would take place in Weir Hall. I don't remember if I went to ballet or gymnastics.
24. I didn't have any personal possessions, apart from maybe a wee doll that my brother gave me. Everything was shared. There were board games in the playroom. You could play outside. My aunt gave me a bike, that helped a lot. Having a bike took me away from it all. Being out on the bike in the fresh air, seeing the countryside, was lovely.

Trips / Holidays

25. The whole cottage went on holiday to Turnberry once year and to Girvan the next year. There was a millionaire called Mr Hodge who owned Turnberry. There were wee cottages. He gave Turnberry free to Quarriers and everyone got the use of a week there.

School

26. I went to the primary school in Quarriers. I didn't go to the secondary school. I don't know how school was, I don't remember much. I have my reports in my records. I remember the name of my primary one teacher and doing a picture.
27. I remember Mrs Minto in primary five. Mrs Minto was the Director of Quarriers wife and a teacher at Quarriers. She was a very nice, very good, teacher. I think Mrs Minto saw that there was something not quite right, she would take me to her big house for tea.
28. I missed a lot of school at Quarriers, through illness. Later, I did catch up at school. School praised me a lot. The teachers said my English was above standard, I was articulate and ahead of the class. I started to become quite distant, when abusive things happened to me.

Healthcare

29. I'm not sure if I was in Cottage 12 or 20 when I had measles or chicken-pox. I was in the hospital on my own. I was isolated.
30. When I was in Cottage 20, I was back and forwards to the doctors because of the pains in my stomach. They said I had swollen glands in my stomach.
31. Quarriers sent me to a speech therapist. They said I had trouble speaking. I had a lisp which I probably still have, slightly.
32. From when I was eight years old, when I woke in the mornings, there would be rings of blood on my pillowcase. Quarriers accused me of biting my gums. I have no scars in my gums. I didn't bite my gums. I was given so much shit for that. I was made to feel dirty and horrible. It says in my records that I spit on my bed-clothes and claim I don't do it on purpose. I had bad tonsillitis throughout my life, until I was eleven or twelve years old and in foster care, when I got my tonsils taken out. My tonsils became poisonous. I think that's where the blood was coming from.

Religious Instruction

33. This is another bit where Quarriers were wrong. Years after I had left Quarriers, I got my birth certificate. My birth certificate says, 'Religion - none'. I was brought up a Protestant at Quarriers when I am not a Protestant.
34. We had to go to church every Sunday. We wore our Sunday best. Everybody walked two by two. In Cottage 20, we had to say Grace before meals. There were prayers at bedtime.

Visits / Inspections

35. When I was between seven and nine years old, I was allocated a social worker. I got a lady called Rosemary Murray. She was lovely, really nice. I never told a soul about what was happening to me at Quarriers.
36. In 1974, when I was eight years old, Quarriers got some foster friends to be 'foster friends' at the weekends. The foster friends gave up on me. They said I was hard to relate to. I don't remember anything about the foster friends, except they were in East Kilbride and I went to visit a few times. The contact was not with a view to actual fostering.
37. There is an entry in my records as follows :-
- "Her foster friend relationship has broken down. Mr and Mrs [REDACTED] feel that they are unable to relate to her. Miss QHP [REDACTED] feels that GGA [REDACTED] should be referred to Mrs Morris. No specific problems but aside from, GGA [REDACTED] does not seem quite right. She tends to ignore people and she lacks concentration and doesn't play in the cottage as other youngsters do."*
38. I know from my records that Mrs Morris was a child psychologist, Susan Morris. I remember vaguely being in a wee office. This is all linked in to the abuse that was happening to me at that point. I wasn't right. Why did Quarriers not ask me? What is said is a prime indicator that there was something far wrong with me. If that was my wee daughter, I'd be asking questions. Sadly, we had no parents. Nobody cared.
39. My adopted father came to visit. My aunt from Canada came. My uncle from Glasgow came. My family didn't visit often, three or four times a year. My adoptive father and my aunt visited me at Cottages 12, 13 and 20 .
40. Quarriers arranged for people to come from Ballantyne's Whisky Bonds to visit, for a day trip. That's how I met the lady who eventually fostered me.

Abuse in Cottage 20

41. QHP [REDACTED] was strange. All the house parents had their own living room. She would have all the kids in the living room, asking them to rub her bare legs while she sat in the chair. Miss QHP [REDACTED] asked the kids to rub higher up her legs. Miss QHP [REDACTED] asked me to rub her legs. I said I wasn't rubbing her legs. I thought it wasn't right.
42. I was always hungry. I stole an orange. All the children in the cottage were pulled out of their beds at about 2:00 am. We were made to stand in the living room. QHP [REDACTED] was asking who stole the orange. We were knackered. It came to about 3:30 am and I thought, I had to own up. I wish I hadn't. I got hell for that. I was shouted at, got no pocket money and was stuck in the cottage. Nobody spoke to me for a while.
43. QHP [REDACTED] didn't physically abuse me, apart from one time. She put me over her knee and spanked the living daylights out of me. She spanked me on the bare bottom with her hand. My family, aunts, uncles, my brother and my sister, would give me money. I saved up the money and spent it on wee stamps. I needed a penny to make a pound. I got the penny and went to the Post Office for the stamps before school. I ran to school. I had to go through woods to get to school because I was late. Miss QHP [REDACTED] caught me, sneaking by her window. She took my sweets off me and leathered the living daylights out of me. I never understood why she hit me. It was my money I spent. I shouldn't have been late for school though.
44. I don't have a lot of memories of school days, I think because of the abuse. I came home from school at lunchtime. QHP [REDACTED] would put her hands between my legs. Her hands were never in my pants, always outside my pants. I asked Miss QHP [REDACTED] why she kept doing that. She said to check if I was wet. [REDACTED] was always standing behind her. [REDACTED] was a child of care. That went on for a long time.

Peer Abuse in Cottage 20

45. There was an older boy, [REDACTED]. He was twelve or thirteen years old. Every night we would sit and watch television. I would go upstairs. The abuse always happened at the top of the stairs. It wasn't a one-off. It was continuous, day in and day out, over a number of years. I thought the behaviour was normal, it became normal. Why I thought it was normal, I don't know. I would like to know.
46. [REDACTED] would lie on top of me. I don't know if [REDACTED] penetrated me. I think he may have. I'm not sure. I have flashbacks of that. I had a lot of stomach ache in Cottage 20 and missed a lot of time at school.
47. One time, [REDACTED] lay me against a bed. He invited all the other boys in the Cottage to have a feel at me. My brother, [REDACTED], was one of them. That is all that I wish to say about that incident.

Leaving Cottage 20

48. QHP [REDACTED] left to get married. My brother, sister and I were moved to Cottage 13. I was about ten years old.

Cottage 13, Quarriers Village

49. The house parents were QGT/QFT [REDACTED]. They had a cottage aunty called Myra. There were a lot of things going on with me and Mr QFT [REDACTED]. There was a personality clash between me and Mr QFT [REDACTED]. Mr QFT [REDACTED] should not have been a house parent. It's documented in my records that he didn't like me.
50. My brother [REDACTED] was with me. [REDACTED] had gone to the hostel because she was old enough. She started work in Quarriers. I thought that was strange. My brother [REDACTED] went to the Royal Air Force and [REDACTED] went to the Army.

Running away

51. I ran away from Cottage 13 a lot. If I ran away with someone, I'd go and stay with them and their families. Later, I stayed on the streets. The police would eventually find me and bring me back. The police didn't ask why you were running away. There is a big, horrible world out there, if you're a wee, vulnerable girl with no parents. It will take you.

Abuse at Cottage 13*Peer Abuse*

52. Three of us girls would be put into a bath together. I'm not naming the girls. They had been in a cottage where a person was convicted of abuse. The girls don't believe he did it but I believe he did. Why were three young girls in a bath together, all touching each other? Where did they all learn that behaviour? Those two girls are adamant that nothing happened to them in Quarriers. Their behaviour in that bath suggested otherwise. Their behaviour was sexualised.

Abuse whilst visiting foster friends, Dumbarton

53. Prior to being fostered, I visited my foster friends, at their home at [REDACTED], Dumbarton. My foster friends were friends with the [REDACTED], who lived at [REDACTED], Dumbarton. One of the older [REDACTED] boys, I think his name was [REDACTED], would walk me down the road to my foster friend's house, from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED]. He would have his arm around me and his hands down my boobs. I'm quite big chested. I think the boy saw that. I did nothing about him doing that. When I was fostered at twelve years old, it stopped. Everything got a wee bit better from twelve onwards.

Leaving Cottage 13

54. I got a foster placement in Dumbarton, when I was twelve.

Foster Care, [REDACTED], Dumbarton

55. My foster placement at Dumbarton was going okay. There wasn't abuse. I had known the lady when she was single. She had been a foster friend. The lady met a man who was a bit younger than her. She got married and the two of them fostered me. I didn't really like the man and he didn't really like me. I felt as if the fostering was maybe a money thing. I really loved the lady. She was a really good lady. I went to Dumbarton Academy.
56. One night, I woke up in the night, at about 2:00 am. I was really sick and had diarrhoea. I went into my foster parent's room. They weren't in. I reported that. I had reported a lot of things by then. I missed being in care. I know that sounds weird. I wasn't enjoying the placement. My foster parents changed my name to GGA [REDACTED].
57. When I was fostered, I was told I was being fostered with a view to adoption. Six months later, either Rosemary Murray or John Donaldson, my social workers, came to see me. They told me that my mother who had died, was my adoptive mother and my natural mother was still living. I was twelve years old, just about to go through puberty, and they hit me with that. The news really upset me. I lost a bit of my identity. Together with everything that had happened before, in Quarriers, it all showed itself in my behaviour.

Leaving Foster Care

58. Things went belly up. I was removed from my foster placement. I tried to go back to apologise to my foster parents. I was moved on to Blairvadach Children's Home in Rhu.

Blairvadoch Children's Home, Rhu

59. I stayed at Blairvadoch for a number of months.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

60.

61.

Leaving Blairvadoch Children's Home

62. I left Blairvadoch when I was twelve and a half years old. I returned to Quarriers.

Cottage 38, Quarriers Village

63. The house parents were **QFG** and **QFH**. They were very religious, fervent. You didn't just go to church once on a Sunday. You had to go at night-time as well. The routines were the usual routines that there were in all the cottages. I was still displaying behavioural problems. Why did someone not just give me a cuddle? Instead, Mr and Mrs **QFG/QFH** didn't like me at all. I didn't like them either. The

QFG/QFH treated me with disdain. My brother was still in Cottage 13, with a view to leaving.

64. Cottage 38 was well-established, with people that Mr and Mrs QFG/QFH had known for years. I came in with behavioural problems. Mr and Mrs QFG/QFH couldn't cope. They weren't bad. They weren't good either. I had lived outside Quarriers and I had changed. I ran away from Cottage 38 a lot.
65. I had to change school and go to Park Mains High School in Erskine. The work they were doing was different to work I'd been doing at Dumbarton Academy. I couldn't follow the classes. It was easier not to go to school. I dogged school a lot.

Running away

66. I ran away from Cottage 38 to try to see my foster parents. I was thirteen years old. I went to see a friend from school. I complained to her dad, Mr , that I was not happy at Quarriers. I don't know what I said. I tried to talk to Mr about things I wasn't happy with. Mr contacted Quarriers.
67. The response that Quarriers sent to Mr is in my records. It is a letter dated 31st May 1979 from LRE, a social worker within Quarriers. The letter reads:-

"Dear Mr and Mrs , I would like to thank you for bringing GGA back yesterday. As you may be aware, she has had many problems to deal with in her life and has not succeeded and learned to face up to them very well, hence her running away. I would say that this should not be taken as sign that she is intensely unhappy or ill-treated here but rather part of a settling down process. Thank you again for your help and co-operation. Yours sincerely, LRE"

68. I was two when I went into Quarriers. When did the problems arise? They certainly didn't arise with family on the outside. The problems came from whatever happened in Quarriers.

69. No-one asked me why I was running away. LRE didn't come to me to ask why. Quarriers are covering up what went on in Cottage 12. That's where my behavioural problems were rooted. I think, in 1979, Quarriers assumed I was reeling from being told about my natural mother. It wasn't that, it was the combination of it all. I clearly wasn't happy.

Abuse at Cottage 38

70. My habits were different because I had lived outside Quarriers. I put chips on a roll one night. I thought that was alright. Mrs QFG went berserk at me. Mrs QFG grabbed a hold of my arms. I kicked her. I was terrible for kicking people if my arms were held. Mrs QFG shouted, "The devil is inside you." Mr QFH threw a butter knife at me. That shouldn't have happened.

Reporting of abuse at Cottage 38

71. I ran away from Cottage 38. I tried to say to my brother, that things weren't good in the cottage. I told him a knife had been thrown at me and Mrs QFG had grabbed my arms. said, "But you kicked her, GGA" said I was lying. If never believed me, what was the point?

Leaving Cottage 38

72. My behaviour got worse. QFG/QFH demanded that I be moved. I was moved again, back to Cottage 13. I had been in Cottage 38 for a few months.

Cottage 13, Quarriers Village

73. By now, me and Cottage 13 were never going to work. I had decided that Mr **QFT** was not going to pull me down. His words were not going to stick with me. I don't think that helped. I know girls who still remember the things that Mr **QFT** called them. I was always in trouble in Cottage 13. I never got pocket money, it was withheld as a punishment. **██████████** was working in the baby home at Quarriers, as a nursery assistant. Quarriers requested that **██████████** come in to try and help me. That's in my records.

74. There is a note in my records, written by **QFT ██████████** on 8th October 1979. It reads :-

*"**GGA** is beginning to act up again. We have been pampering her over the last two months, as this seems to be the only way to keep her feet on the ground virtually. However the instant we stopped pampering her, we saw a very different side to **GGA** which we obviously could not allow to continue in her own future interest. At the moment she is going through the behavioural pattern of a nine year old. She refused to go to school this morning and, after a talk with Mr **QGI**, she agreed to go. I took her to school by car and her behaviour and infantile talk was both pathetic and alarming, so much so that I felt led to write this report as soon as I arrived home from her school. I would suggest that **GGA** problems be looked into immediately to determine whether there are grounds to seek further professional help. **QFT**"*

Abuse at Cottage 13

75. My adoptive father came to visit. He had a drink problem and would be a bit drunk. On one occasion, Mrs **QGT** took him in and gave him two cups of black coffee. I was bad one evening. When you're in a dormitory together, you sing songs and play games at night-time. Mrs **QGT** came up and said I was the ringleader again.

76. Mrs **QGT** sat down, grabbed my arms and told me to calm down. Mrs **QGT** said I was just like my father and I know that she's had to give him two black coffees to sober him

up. I don't know how old I was, ten or eleven years old maybe. I kicked her. There's no mention in my records of that. Then, Mr [QFT] got me by the arm. He pulled the mattress off the bed. He put me in the cold playroom. I had to sleep in the playroom for weeks.

Reporting of abuse at Cottage 13

77. My second secondary school was Park Main's School. When I was thirteen years old, I tried to tell the staff in Park Mains about things that had happened in Cottage 13. There is a letter in my records dated 21st December 1979 from the Assistant Rector at Park Main's, Mr A.A. Gillespie, to Doctor Minto at Quarriers. Mr Gillespie sent my school report to Quarriers, saying I should have taken it home several days before but, because of the poor grades, I've been too ashamed to show the report to anyone. Mr Gillespie says my failure to pass on the report is a matter for the school and he has dealt with it. He asks Doctor Minto to take that aspect no further. Mr Gillespie was trying to help me.

78. Mr Gillespie says in the letter :-

"I am a little concerned that [GGA] seems to be afraid of the consequences of taking a poor report home and has told me that she is already in their bad books, has been hit and made to sleep in the play room. She is of course very capable of fabricating all sorts of stories and there may be no truth in what she has said."

79. Doctor Minto replied to Mr Gillespie's letter on 10th January 1980. The reply reads :-

"Thank you very much for your letter about [GGA] her school report and her problems with her house parents. There is a case discussion about [GGA] and her future here in Quarriers on 14th January 1980. Her cottage will, in all probability, be changed after that meeting. Thank you for your kind interest. [GGA] school report is very disappointing considering she is quite a bright girl and not unintelligent. As you

probably know, she was fostered and that broke down after a time. we are trying very hard to help her come to terms with considerable family problems that she faces. Once again thank you for your help with GGA."

80. Doctor Minto was a Director of Quarriers. He came to Quarriers when I was a bit older. He was alright. It was his wife who taught me.

Leaving Cottage 13

81. Cottage 13 couldn't cope with me, so I was moved to Bill Dunbar's cottage, Cottage 4. I was about thirteen years old.

Cottage 4, Quarriers Village

82. The house parents were Helen and Bill Dunbar. Again, I stayed in Cottage 4 for a matter of months. The routines were the same as the other cottages. I don't like Bill Dunbar. I didn't warm to him. I think Bill Dunbar knows a lot about the abuse that went on in Quarriers. He was a long-serving house-parent. When I went into Cottage 4, I didn't really have any behavioural problems. The weirdest thing was, I never really saw any kids in Cottage 4.
83. Nothing happened to me in the Dunbar's cottage. I was unhappy in life. Too much had happened at that point. I think Quarriers could have cared for me better. I felt I had made a name for myself. No-one looked at the background and all the things I had to deal with. This didn't come from an outside world. This came from growing up in Quarriers. I think there was a lot of mismanagement.
84. I think people in Quarriers were aware of why my behaviour was the way it was and that it all came from Cottages 12 and 20. Instead of addressing that, Quarriers moved me about like a rag doll. I went to five different high schools. I was a runaway and I had behavioural problems but I was never bad.

Leaving Quarriers Village for the last time

85. When I was thirteen, almost fourteen years old, I requested to leave Quarriers completely. I asked Quarriers and my social worker, Rosemary Murray. I had had enough of Quarriers. I was moved on promptly. Although abuse went on, Quarriers did have ethos. We were fed, we were clean and tidy, we went to church and we had manners. I did want to leave but not quite the way it happened. **Secondary Institutions - to be**
Second I was sent to Maratha House in Dennistoun, Glasgow.

Maratha House, Circus Drive, Glasgow

86. I went to Marthara House in 1980. **Secondary Institutions - to be published later**
Secondary Institutions - to be published later
- 87.
- 88.
- 89.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

90.

91.

92.

93.

Leaving Marthara House

94. [Redacted] Secondary Institutions - to be published later
[Redacted] Secondary Institutions - to be published later I was told I was going to Wallacewell.

Wallacewell Children's Home, Barlanark, Glasgow

95. Wallacewell was a children's home in Barlanark. I went there when I was fourteen years old. [Redacted] Secondary Institutions - to be published later
[Redacted] Secondary Institutions - to be published later
96. [Redacted]
97. [Redacted]

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

98.

99.

Burnside Assessment Centre, Dundee

100. I went to Burnside when I was nearly fifteen years old. It was an assessment centre. You were to be there for only six weeks. I was there for about a year. It was a locked home. It had barbed wire around the entrance. Burnside was a regime. It was for bad boys and girls. From when I was a wee girl, I felt bad. Burnside reinforced that feeling. The staff member who I remember is Jean Pirie, she was okay.
101. Burnside had a school inside. The inside school was a complete joke. I went there at first. It was like baby lessons. I was articulate. I had had a good primary education. I think Burnside recognised that. I was allowed out to go to school. I went to my fourth secondary school, Kirkton High School.
102. I was a persistent runaway. I ran away again, again and again. I got up to no good. I had a break from glue sniffing. Later, my behaviour got better. I was more settled. Then, it was decided to move me to Glasgow again. .

103. I had contact with my sister [REDACTED], for a bit. My adoptive father died when I was in Burnside. He didn't come to Dundee but I went to visit him.
104. My social worker was John Donaldson from Glasgow. Mr Donaldson did try. He was very good to me but his hands were tied. He did not come to visit me when I was in the cell at Burnside. I don't know if John Donaldson had been told that I was in there.
105. I would run away. I would be caught. I would go to the Children's Panel. Then, I'd be taken back to Burnside. Nobody asked why I was running away. Throughout my life, nobody has given a damn.
106. The Children's Panel made the decision to send me to an assessment centre for assessment. Assessment is not being locked in a cell all the time.

Abuse at Burnside Assessment Centre

107. Every time I ran away and was brought back, I was put in a locked cell for days. It could be for two or more nights at a time. I didn't get out of the cell at all, over the days I was in it. That was my punishment, to stop me running away. In the cell, there was a hard wooden bed, built into the floor. There was no other furniture. There was a thin blanket. The window had bars on it. It didn't open, for any air to get in. There was a tiny toilet in a separate cubicle, with a sink. When I was in the cell, I didn't wash. I didn't get out of the cell to get a shower.
108. Food would be brought in. There was a hole in the wall, between the cell and the boy's toilets. The boys would put cigarettes through the hole for me. The staff would keep me in my pyjamas, inside and outside the cell, so that I couldn't run away. There was no-one to talk to, except through the hole to the boys toilets.
109. Being in the cell was not nice. I think someone realised I had a phobia about the dark. They would put the lights off at night. I always felt the staff were trying to break me. They didn't break me. I would get a reprieve. I would be put in the cell for a few days,

then the staff would take me out. Two child murderers were admitted to Burnside. They were to be in the cell for quite a while, before they could be taken to court. I was free for a wee while.

110. A staff member gave me a black eye. I think it was Mr GNJ but I'm not sure. It was, and wasn't, my fault. I wasn't very nice. I said something really bad about his wife. He punched me. You got used to a lot of different things.
111. The staff would tell me lies, to stop me running away. My brother [REDACTED] was in the Royal Air Force, living down in England. The staff would say my brother was coming to visit that night so I needed to stay. My brother never came.

Leaving Burnside Assessment Centre

112. I settled down a bit at Burnside. John Donaldson said there was a vacancy at a care home in Glasgow and would I like to go back to Glasgow. I agreed to go back. I moved from Burnside to Maxton House. I was fifteen years old.

Maxton House, Bridgeton, Glasgow

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

113.

114.

Secondary Institutions - to be published later

115. I was able to go to my social worker's office. John Donaldson and Rosemary Murray were the only two people who ever listened to me but I never told them anything about what had happened to me. I didn't know how to. How does a child say that all these things have happened to them?
116. I got to sixteen years old. I decided I was an adult now. I behaved. I made my own plans for my future. I had flunked school. I was taken out of school early, when I was fifteen and a half. I did a Community Volunteer Course at an Adult Training Centre for adults with learning difficulties.
117. I got a place at college to do a nursery nursing course. John Donaldson helped me with that. He took me to the college. John Donaldson also held some money that my adopted dad had left me when he died, when I was fifteen years old. Rather than holding the money until I was eighteen years old, John Donaldson agreed to give me the money when I was sixteen and a half. That helped me get a flat. I moved in with a girl from a local family.

Leaving Maxton House

118. John Donaldson remained my social worker until I was sixteen years old. He was a good man. I'm not saying a word against John Donaldson. I don't think he took the proper pathway for me but he tried. He listened to me. When I moved into a flat Mr Donaldson and his wife presented me with dish towels, an alarm clock and really special wee things that you needed in a home. I had never met Mrs Donaldson but Mr Donaldson said the things were from both of them.

Life after being in care

119. Life was hard. No-one tells you about life, when you're in care. When I had made the bursary application, I was seen as living at home. I was awarded the bursary rate for living at home. I left care and I was going to college. I realised the bursary was not going to cover all my costs. There was nowhere to go back to in the education system to say I needed more money. The application had been processed. I had to drop out of college. I had no money whatsoever.
120. The girl I shared the flat with had lived with her parents before. She couldn't hack it and went back home. I had to move from a shared bedsit to a smaller bedsit. I had a bit of money so I could pay up front for a wee while. I don't know how I managed, I just did.
121. I had a boyfriend, [REDACTED] a first love. He lived with his mum. My boyfriend's mum sent food for me until I could claim benefit money from the Department of Social Security. I didn't have support then from my siblings. Everybody had their own lives.
122. When I was eighteen years old, I fell pregnant. I wasn't sure if I wanted a kid. I went back to social work and asked for help. They moved me into a young, unmarried mother's flat. Later, I moved into a lovely house. I was still in a relationship and looking after my son, also called [REDACTED].
123. I broke off my first relationship. I was still not happy, when I met a man who was 22 years old. He was a recovering heroin addict. I became a drug addict. I got clean five or six years later when my daughter was four years old. I moved to Johnstone and went to college. I worked my way up to a managerial position. I lived and worked abroad for a while. I did very well in my career. I still have a lot to do.

Impact

124. I know there are people who have gone through a hell of a lot more than I've gone through. Is what I've gone through not enough? What I went through tipped me over

for many years. It wasn't until I was in my forties that I could see there was a correlation between things that happened in my life. That took a lot of doing. I had to go back in time and look at the dates that events happened on.

125. A lot of children were sexualised at Quarriers. When you are a child, going through all that, it is difficult to see that there are reasons why certain things happen and how one thing follows another. You're thinking about how to survive. All I tried to do in care, was to survive. It would have been easy not to be here. If I wasn't strong, I'd be dead. I know a lot of people who are no longer here. It's a very easy option.
126. I never realised how unsettling it all was, what the care system did to me, even without sexual abuse. The impact on me has been horrific. It is the regime, the way you have to do things. The regime was barbaric. My social worker was nice but he had constraints. I was not his child. I was a child of care. How do you ever feel loved and cared for?
127. It is a big thing for me, finding out when I was twelve that I had been adopted. That caused me a lot of distress. How dare they, social services, allow me to be brought up with a lie? When I got to twelve years old, the accumulation of that and my foster home breaking up, alongside everything else that had happened, wasn't good for my behaviour.
128. When I got to thirteen, I was a runaway. I never realised what I was running away from. Now that I'm older and have done training, I know I was running away from something. The answer the authorities gave was that I was a persistent absconder. The authorities would move me on. That never helped me. I never had much of a childhood.
129. My sister [REDACTED] won't talk about Quarriers. She is a wreck. She has not coped very well with it. I have a semi-relationship with my brother, [REDACTED], now. We don't speak about the incident in Cottage 20 where [REDACTED] got the boys to have a feel of me. I yelled at him down the phone twenty years ago and we weren't in contact for a lot of time. We are kind of in contact now. [REDACTED] has gone off the Richter scale. We think it's

because of his time in Cottage 20. He won't talk. It's causing big problems in his own family. My brothers [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] swapped one institution for another, by leaving Quarriers and going into the forces.

130. I traced my birth mum through the Salvation Army when I was fifteen years old. She didn't want to know me. When I was nineteen years old, my cousin told me that my birth mum had died and the police were looking for relatives. I contacted the police and they told me to go to a hostel to pick up her belongings. My birth mum had been an alcoholic. She was buried in a paupers grave. It broke my heart.
131. Many years after I'd left Quarriers, in adult life, I phoned to have my carpet cleaned. By coincidence, the person sent to clean the carpets was my abuser, [REDACTED]. I was totally freaked out. My sister, [REDACTED], lived across the road. She knew [REDACTED] as well, we were all in care together. I took [REDACTED] over to [REDACTED]. In front of my sister, [REDACTED] said he was sorry he abused me. I had never told a soul about [REDACTED] until he came to my door that day. [REDACTED] said he had been abused too. I would like to know, who did that to him, what happened to him?
132. In another coincidence, I went on holiday abroad and met someone who knew [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. They told me he had been run out of Kilbirnie for child abuse offences.
133. I am really pissed off about my tonsillitis not being dealt with and being accused of biting my gums at Quarriers, when I think the bleeding was caused by my tonsils. I missed a lot of schooling through illness.
134. I was registered at five secondary schools. I hardly went to school. I would go to one, then to another. The next school would be at a different bit in the curriculum. I couldn't grasp it. It was easier not to go to school.
135. I have flashbacks. I have flashbacks about the cell at Burnside every day. I can't forgive Burnside for that. Out of everything I've been through in life, being in that cell was horrible. It was torture.

136. Glue sniffing and drug addiction take away memories. When I was using drugs, there was an image that came to me, that meant I could prove everything that happened to me, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. I can't get that image back again. Things that happened in Cottage 12 led to everything. My life after care was hellish. I don't blame anyone but I think I could have been treated better in care. I feel shoddy. I became a drug addict and could have stayed an addict. I stopped taking drugs, not because of my boy, because he had his dad and his gran, but for my daughter who I'd taken away from her father. I couldn't be like her father.
137. I have had terrible relationships. I have a lack of trust. I'm hyper vigilant, if someone walks behind me, I want to go the other way. I had low self-worth and self-esteem in the past. It shouldn't be that I have to get to 53 years old to have all these things. Now, I know I'm articulate. I know what my strengths are. I know what my worth is. It's not been easy. I think if a person is vulnerable, it's like they are giving out signals and people take advantage of that.
138. I've tried to be open with my own children. In the early days, I was a shouter. I went to college and realised you can't shout at kids. I was like that from all the years in Cottage 13. Mr ^{QFT}[REDACTED] shouted all the time. It was learned behaviour. I have a loving relationship with my children. I'm not saying our relationship hasn't been fraught with difficulties, years ago.
139. I had a haemorrhage in January and am off work now. I'm taking time to recuperate. There's a lot in my life I'm not proud of but there's also a lot in my life that I am proud of. It's a pity that, when I was growing up, the authorities didn't take my strengths and my resilience and made them into something, like I did with my own children.

Revisits

140. I went back to Quarriers with one of my friends, many years ago when I was in my thirties. I was looking for answers. The first person I met was the head gardener, Mr Cow. He was a lovely man. He has now died. I had been very young when I was in

Cottage 12 run by Mr and Mrs [redacted] so Mr Cow did not realise I had been in that cottage. Mr Cow said to me, "What about all the jiggery-pokery and sexual abuse that went on in Cottage 12?" If the head gardener knew what went on in Cottage 12, so must have others.

141. I approached Bill Dunbar that day. I asked him why I was moved out of Quarriers so promptly. Bill Dunbar said wild horses wouldn't have stopped me.

Treatment / Support

142. I have tried to remember what [redacted] did to me. I went to a hypnotherapist. Around 2009, when I got my records, I went for counselling. I got a wee old lady. I never went back. I went to another counsellor who said I was remarkable. I didn't think that was a very good therapeutic relationship. That counsellor seemed to think that because I had worked in good jobs, everything was okay. I've done my own counselling.

Records

143. I requested my records in about 2008. When they arrived, there was only half of the records there. I was raging. I went back to them and suddenly got the other half. Some are duplicates. My records are sparse. To have all I have, for ten years of my life, is joke. There is nothing in my records to support that I was in Cottage 4. There is no discharge record of me going to Marthara House.
144. When I read my records, my adoptive mum had left money for me and my siblings. There is a letter in my records, to my adoptive mother's lawyer, where Quarriers say they proposed to open savings accounts for us. They never did. Quarriers hadn't told us about the money. It wasn't much, pennies. I had to deal with it. The money was left to us in 1970, I got it about 2009.

145. The records I was sent contained confidential information about my older sister, saying our adoptive father was displaying an unhealthy sexual interest in her. I wrote to the Care Commission to complain. They couldn't help because they only deal with people being cared for now. I raised a formal grievance with Quarriers.

Lessons to be Learned

146. At Quarriers, there was no Disclosure, no Protecting Vulnerable Groups scheme. They let anyone in to care for children. In some cottages, people had really nice lives. They've come out, married and everything's okay. For some people, it wasn't like that.
147. When making decisions about children, instead of discussing the child, people should ask the child what the child thinks is right for them.
148. Young kids, growing up in care, are not getting a lot of tactile touch. I never had a hug at all. If a kid grows up like that, how are they going to go on and form a proper loving relationship? Children who have been in care grow up feeling unloved. This has a big impact on children's self-esteem.
149. I think a psychotherapist should be brought in to talk to children in care, in a therapeutic manner, to make sure they are aware of how they've been brought up. There should not be secrets. Social work, the local authority, Quarriers and my foster parents, are all guilty of keeping secrets. We have to be open and honest with children. We have to explain as we go along, it doesn't matter how young they are.

Other information

150. I read a transcript on the Inquiry website. Quarriers were trying to say that Mr QCX of Cottage 12 wasn't employed at the time I was there. In my reckoning, he was there. That made me come forward to the Inquiry.

151. 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..... GGA

Dated..... 23/9/19