

# FBGA (of Quarriers Homes)

Former Boys and Girls Abused of Quarriers Homes

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## **16<sup>th</sup> May 2012, Submission to the Leveson Inquiry**

I am writing to you with regards a submission made by Michael Barnes, Chair of Falsely Accused Carers and Teachers (FACT) to the said Leveson Inquiry.

1. That fact and evidence exists that some FACT members have in the past conspired with BBC journalists to demean and discredit victims of abuse " Secrets or Lies" BBC Frontline Scotland 2003.
2. FACT members use the media in ways that are not balanced and impartial and that FACT members have engaged in tactics in the media designed to demean and discredit genuine victims of abuse.
3. That FACT use their lobbying power to give there issues an amplified voice in the UK parliament despite the fact that there is no fact or evidence to support the premise by FACT "that hundreds of falsely accused of historical child abuse are languishing in our prison system"
4. FACT accuse the Police of using methods such as "trawling" when in fact the Police are in fact gathering the fact and evidence.
5. FACT fails to mention that perpetrators of child abuse crimes trawl and groom their victims.
6. Victims of child abuse have been described by FACT members and the media supporters as liars, compensation seekers, fantasists, having false or impaired memories.
7. FACT fails to address issues that some of its members have engaged in intimidation of witnesses'- John Porteous case 2002-2003- family and supporters - which had to be reported to the authorities.
8. Personal Injury lawyers are targeted by FACT merely for representing the interests of their clients in the Civil Courts.
9. " Secrets or Lies" BBC Frontline Scotland 2003 is a prime example where unscrupulous BBC Scotland journalists and BBC Scotland programme makers conspired to claim a Miscarriage of Justice when none existed in law. Causing untold damage on the genuine victims whose cases where upheld in the Scottish Criminal and Scottish Appeal Courts.
10. There needs to be a robust Press Complaints Commission that is not under undue influence by the Editors and Media ownership but is wholly independent with the necessary wide ranging regulatory powers to hold unscrupulous journalists and others to account on behalf of the public and society as a whole. OFCOM and IPCC require to be strengthened including in relation to reviewing timing out of genuine complaints.
11. It may take time, effort and in some cases tenacity for the complainant to gather all the facts and present the complaint to the relevant regulatory body and internal complaints systems of media organisations.
12. The role of the media in these historical child abuse cases should be to report in an accurate, balanced and impartial way while representing the public interest.

This submission is made of behalf of the victims of child abuse regarding Quarriers Homes and I certify that the facts contained within are to the best of my knowledge and belief true.

Yours Sincerely

David Whelan Founder (FBGA) author No More Silence