

## STATEMENT PRINT

Surname: WHELAN  
Forenames: IRENE  
Date of Birth: 10/11/1958 Age: 43  
Occupation: [REDACTED]  
Address: [REDACTED] Postcode: [REDACTED]  
Telephone No.: [REDACTED]  
Number of Pages: 7

I stay at the address given on my own and have stayed here for the last 20 years.

[REDACTED]  
I was born in Glasgow and have one brother David WHELAN and a sister Jeanette BRISTOW.

I had two other brothers who have died.

When I was about 12 years old along with my brother David I went to stay at Quarriers Childrens Home in Bridge of Weir. [REDACTED]

When I went to Quarriers I stayed in cottage 7. David went to cottage 11.

My first houseparents in cottage 7 were 2 sisters from Edinburgh, I can't remember there names.

Other kids in the cottage when I went in were the DALDRY family, Mary Ellen, David, Catherine, Jacqueline and Carol. The HENDERSONS, Ian, Alan and Michael and Elizabeth their sister. James, Cameron and George MCDONALD, they might have had a sister but I can't remember her name. There was the BETT children but I can only remember Jim and Margaret.

There was also a Maureen PRENTICE and Margaret CARTWRIGHT. There was more kids but I can't remember them, there was about 20 kids in total. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I do remember running away a few times because you weren't allowed to do anything like going out to the club in Quarriers and things like that.

I was only in the cottage for about 6 months when the two sisters left the cottage and Quarriers altogether. The new houseparents were John and Helen PORTEOUS. They were both in their 30's or 40's. David my brother was still in another cottage at the time.

Before they took over I already knew Helen PORTEOUS because she ran the netball team at the youth club. The cottage also had assistants who were known to the kids as the cottage aunts, but I can't remember who they were.

When you stayed in the cottage all the kids got chores to do. I can remember polishing shoes, peeling potatoes and cleaning the pots and pans. I went to school in Quarriers and know other kids including my brother David went to Linwood High School.

In the early years when John and Helen took over the cottage everything was fine I didn't have any problems. [REDACTED] I do remember one of the punishments I got was being made to stand in the big shed at the back of the cottage. I got this punishment a few times. I would be there for a few hours and on one occasion I ran away after it. John always seemed to dish out the punishments in the cottage.

I don't know if this had been arranged by John and Helen but it just seemed he dished it out.

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When I was about 14 or 15 I had an argument with John PORTEOUS. I was in the upstairs bathroom, David my brother was staying in the cottage by this time.

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There was a typewriter in a room up the stairs David had written a letter which had sexual words in it and I was sitting typing it, when Helen PORTEOUS came in and seen what I was typing and said it was disgusting. She wasn't shouting and bowling at that time but she wasn't happy, but I've seen Helen shouting at the other kids for different things.

I can remember being sent home from school when I was about 13. I used to be bothered a lot with my tonsils. I went back to my bed in the dormitory, Helen came in and told me to tidy my drawers in a chest of drawers. I told her there was nothing wrong with them. Helen then pulled out all the drawers 4 or 5 of them and emptied all my clothes out onto the floor and again told me to tidy them up. I can't think of any reason why she done that. She didn't empty them out onto the floor it was on to another bed. Helen just left the dorm after that.

I think when I was about 15 I can remember going through to John and Helen's bedroom during the night maybe about 3 o'clock in the morning. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

When I about 14 Helen never gave me a talk about my body changing or having my period, but I had been out on a push bike and I started bleeding I went in and put some tissues on my private parts but after a few hours I was still bleeding so I asked Helen for a plaster. She

asked me where I was cut and I pointed to my private parts. Helen then announced to all the other children that I had taken my period. I felt really embarrassed, I think she did this to belittle me.

When I was saying I had an argument with John PORTEOUS in the bathroom upstairs. I was in the bathroom and John came in and told me to get washed. I told him "I'M NOT NOW" he told me to "WASH RIGHT NOW", he had filled the sink with water.

I was standing at the sink bending over to start washing my face when he pushed the back of my head down and I battered the bridge of my nose off of the rim of the sink. My nose started bleeding and there was a lot of pain in my nose. I said to him that's out of order and "YOU'RE IN THE WRONG". I ran out the cottage and went straight to Mr MORTIMER, who was the Superintendent of Quarriers. I told him what had happened. He told me I could report it but he gave me a week to think about it. He said John could be sacked for it. I told him I didn't want to stay in that cottage anymore.

[REDACTED]

Within about 3 days after that I was moved to a Salvation Army Hostel in Denniston in Glasgow.

After that my eyes were bruised and my nose was bruised too. I didn't get any hospital treatment for it so I don't know if my nose was broken. After moving to the hostel I didn't go back to Quarriers after that.

About 5 years ago I was going up to visit someone in Perth so I wrote a letter to Helen asking if I could come and see her. She wrote back saying yes. I have seen them 4 times in the last 5 years.

After my first visit back to see Helen she wrote to me. In the letter Helen mentioned something about both her daughters Heather and Jane being abused. I can't remember anything more about the letter but I think I still have it somewhere.

On one visit back to Scotland I was staying with John and Helen. I went to Ian HENDERSON'S record shop in Paisley. I went with Alan HENDERSON. During a conversation I asked Alan HENDERSON if Ian was married [REDACTED]

Just after Alan said "DO YOU KNOW SOME PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY ABUSED BY JOHN PORTEOUS AND IAN WAS ONE OF THEM".

The last time I seen John and Helen was maybe about 3 years ago 1999 I think. I can't think of anything else about my time at Quarriers at the moment.

DOCUMENT RECORD PRINT

Statement number: S53

Signed:

[REDACTED]

Date taken:

30/04/2002

Time:

1205

Place:

[REDACTED]

Officer's Name:

ALAN HARVIE

Rank:

DC

Station:

GREENOCK

Corroborating Officer:

[REDACTED]

Rank:

[REDACTED]

Station: