

Former Quarriers Village care home worker sexually abused more boys

10th September 2025, GREENOCK SHERIFF COURT, QUARRIERS, QUARRIERS VILLAGE
COURT CRIME

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John Porteous sexually abused two young boys at a Quarriers Village children's home more than 50 years ago, a court has ruled. *(Image: Newsquest)*

A FORMER Quarriers Village children's home worker sexually abused two young boys more than 50 years ago, a court has ruled.



John Porteous was found to have targeted the victims between 1966 and 1972 while employed as a houseparent by the Quarriers charity.

Porteous, now aged 92, was jailed for eight years in November 2002 for sex offences against two boys at the facility, but later had his sentence reduced to five years on appeal.

He was deemed unfit to be criminally tried or to appear in court on the latest allegations following an independent medical assessment.

Following an 'examination of facts' hearing at **Greenock** Sheriff Court, a sheriff ruled that Porteous had abused the children.

Two charges of indecent assault and lewd, indecent and libidinous practices and behaviour were found to be established.

In 2002, Porteous was convicted at the High Court in Glasgow of two charges of lewd and libidinous behaviour and two charges of shameless indecency. He was found guilty of abusing two young boys between 1969 and 1977.

He later appealed against his convictions on the two counts of shameless indecency.

Reacting to the court's ruling on the latest allegations, Procurator Fiscal Anne Marie Hicks, of the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) said: "The Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service consistently strives to secure justice for those affected by abuse.

"John Porteous exploited his position of authority at the Quarriers Village to sexually abuse vulnerable young boys.

"This examination of facts is a public airing of the evidence and an acknowledgement that what happened to these children in the past was criminal. It should never have happened.

"It is now a matter of public record that Porteous committed these offences.

"The court's finding also sends a clear message to abusers: no matter who you are, when the abuse happened or how long after the event it is reported, there will be a robust response from Scotland's prosecutors."

The court had previously determined that the accused was not fit to stand trial and ordered an examination of facts, where the procurator fiscal depute and the defence led evidence which was tested before a sheriff.

Following the ruling on Tuesday, Porteous's name has been added to the sex offenders register for five years.

Ms Hicks added: "To any victim of similar offending, we urge you to report it when you feel ready and able to do so.

"Be assured you will be listened to and supported by our staff.

"We remain committed to investigating and pursuing those responsible for these types of offences."

Link to news item

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