

Child abuser allowed to live in care complex, inquiry told

- Scottish Daily Mail
- 16 Nov 2018
- By Sam Walker

A MAN convicted of abusing children at a care home was allowed to live nearby during the police investigation, an inquiry heard yesterday.

Former Quarriers charity boss Philip Robinson told the Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry he had made a 'mistake' in allowing John Porteous to stay in its Renfrewshire complex during the two-year probe.

Giving evidence in Edinburgh yesterday, Mr Robinson admitted he did not take steps to prevent Porteous potentially gaining access to vulnerable children in Quarriers Village.

Porteous was jailed for five years in 2002 for abusing Quarriers resident David Whelan.

Mr Robinson, 71, said: 'We probably should have take more proactive action to prevent him from any kind of accidental access.

'I think we were perhaps a bit lax'

'When he was released from prison we were much more savvy and we did that. But at that early stage we were still struggling with the concept of him being innocent until proven guilty and what that meant in practical terms. I think we were perhaps a bit lax.'

He said Quarriers learned lessons from this and wrote to the local authority to request former employee Sandy Wilson – who was sentenced to seven-and-a-half years in 2004 for abusing eight girls at the home – not be allowed to return to the village house he had bought following his release from jail.

But this was dismissed by social work bosses who said Wilson, who had one leg, 'did not present a threat to children' due to restricted mobility.

The inquiry continues.