

11 Aug 2008



Strictly Private & Confidential

Mr Bernard Page

Code A

Our ref: TET/GML/00492-15579/8053383 v1

Your ref:

Tamsin Hall
Assistant Solicitor

Code A

11 August 2008

Dear Mr Page

General Medical Council - Dr Jane Barton

I write further to our previous correspondence regarding your late Mother.

My colleague Sarah Ellson wrote to you on 30 May 2008 to inform you that we would be pursuing your Mother's case and it would be one of those upon which we intend to focus at the GMC hearing.

As you are also aware, the Coroner subsequently announced his intention to hold an Inquest into a number of patient deaths and we have had to postpone the GMC hearing. We hope that this will now be heard early next year.

You kindly provided me with some information last year and we spoke on the phone. I am now in a position to draft a statement upon your behalf and we anticipate that we will need to call you as a witness for the hearing. I apologise that this has not been done until now.

Please find attached a very draft statement which I have based upon our telephone conversation. I hope that we can use it as a starting point to draft a more comprehensive statement. I have put a number of questions regarding areas which I felt needed expanding on further.

Perhaps you could telephone me with your suggested amendments, or alternatively e-mail me back.

I would also be grateful if you could forward me the numbered pages of the medical notes which you mentioned in your previous e-mails to me.



I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Code A

Tamsin Hall
for Field Fisher Waterhouse LLP

GMC - STATEMENT.

11 August 2008.

NB. - Not used.

(11.08.2008)

General Medical Council**Dr Jane Barton****Statement of Bernard Page**I, **Bernard Page**, will say as follows:

1. I am the son of Mrs Eva Page date of birth. Her date of birth is Code A and she sadly died on 3 March 1998.
2. I make this statement in relation to the treatment which my mother received at the Queen Alexander Hospital and subsequently the Gosport War Memorial Hospital.
3. I am very concerned about the treatment that my mother received and have wanted the police to investigate my mother's case further in the past.
4. I can confirm that the police did not interview me at all with regard to my mother's treatment. An officer did come to visit me regarding a complaint I made to the police about their investigation but I can confirm that nobody interviewed me and I did not make a statement.
5. I work the Royal Hospital Haslar in Gosport Hampshire as a [*Please provide further information about your job title*].
6. As I was unhappy with the treatment that my mother received I obtained her medical notes. On receiving my mother's medical notes I numbered each page as they appeared in the pack and described and noted the entries and the key dates. I also included a column with my brief personal comments regarding some pages in the file. Exhibited to this statement and marked **BP1** is a copy of my excel file data.
7. Exhibited to this statement and marked **BP2** is a copy of the medical notes which I have numbered in order to make sense of my comments.
8. My mother was admitted to Queen Alexander Hospital on 6 February 1988. Previously she had lived in a residential home for a number of years. [*Any further information you can provide about your mother's general state of health would be useful*]

9. Mother had been admitted to Queen Alexander as she had stopped taking her angina medication. They had to get her back on her tablets and sort out the dose. She had settled and this was not the first time that this had happened. Once the medication was balanced then my mother was normal and she would have been sent home.
10. At the Queen Alexander they did a chest x-ray and found a shadow on her bronchus. The radiologists suggested that it was possibly a tumour. As my mother was frail they decided not to do an operation and suggested to leave it and see how it develops. They discussed this course of action with me and said if it is a tumour then it is perhaps best to let nature take its course. They said they would send my mother to Gosport War Memorial Hospital to get her more stable. They said that there would then be three different options. The first option would be that mother would go back to her home. The second option would be that if she got worse then she would have to go into a nursing home and the third option was that she would have to stay in hospital.
11. *[How often did you visit your mother throughout this period? Any other background information would be useful]*
12. On 27 February 1998 my mother was transferred to Gosport War Memorial Hospital. I left my mother in the Queen Alexander Hospital at 12.30pm and she was talking and not in pain although she was weak. At 2.00pm, later the same day, I went to Gosport War Memorial Hospital and my mother was already sedated and on a drip. From then on my mother was unconscious and took six to seven days to die.
13. My mother sadly passed away on 3 March 1998.
14. I think that as soon as she arrived at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital then they considered her to be terminal. I feel that they had a policy of euthanasia. *[Did the staff there indicate that they thought she would die – what did they tell you?]*
15. It was not until I got her medical notes that I realised something was wrong.
16. When I got my mother's notes I realised that she had not been given any pain medication in the Queen Alexander Hospital. She had only been given aspirin as she had fallen out of bed a couple of times. It is true that mentally she was deteriorating but she was eating at the time. If my mother had been found to have cancer then it would have been long term decline.
17. In the time that I visited Gosport War Memorial Hospital to see my mother I never met Dr Jane Barton. I only spoke to the sister on the ward. I can not remember her name exactly but think that it was a Mrs Hamblin.
18. I feel that I was kept in the dark regarding the police investigation. I know that some

of the other families went ahead on there own but I lost touch with what was going on.

- 19. I understand that my statement may be used in evidence for the purposes of a hearing before the General Medical Council’s Fitness to Practise Panel and for the purposes of any appeal, including any appeal by the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence. I confirm that I am willing to attend the hearing to give evidence if asked to do so.

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true.

Signed:

Bernard Page

Dated: