

Simmonds Patricia (QD2) The Surgery PO12 3HH

From: Boyall, Dawn [Code A]
Sent: 20 August 2009 11:08
To: Tennant, Nicholas; Barker, Ian; [Code A]
Cc: Field, Susan
Subject: RE: Dr Jane Barton - GMC

Attachments: bartonGMC.doc



bartonGMC.doc (32 KB)

Dear Pat

Here is the draft press release we have prepared for Dr Barton for your information. As Ian explained, this may change slightly, depending on the verdict so we will not be sending it out until the final verdict is announced.

If you receive any media enquiries about the case in the meantime, please do forward them on to me or my colleague Susan Field in the MDU press office. Our contact details are below.

Best
Dawn

Dawn Boyall
 Media Relations Manager
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 230 Blackfriars Rd
 London SE1 8PJ
 T: 020 7202 1535
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 M: [Code A]
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Susan Field
 Media Relations Executive
 T: [Code A]

-----Original Message-----

From: Tennant, Nicholas
Sent: 20 August 2009 10:27
To: Barker, Ian; [Code A]
Cc: Boyall, Dawn
Subject: Re: Dr Jane Barton - GMC

Dear Pat

Just so that you are aware there will be no final decision today. If I can be of assistance please feel free to give me a call [Code A]

Kind regards

Nick Tennant

-----Original Message-----

From: Barker, Ian
To: [Code A]
CC: Boyall, Dawn; Tennant, Nicholas
Sent: Wed Aug 19 12:10:18 2009



MDU Services Limited
230 Blackfriars Road
London
SE1 8PJ

DRAFT – NOT FOR PUBLICATION

Media Release

Wednesday 19 August 2009

STATEMENT FROM DR JANE BARTON, A GP IN HAMPSHIRE, FOLLOWING TODAY'S GMC VERDICT

"I am deeply disappointed by the decision of the GMC Panel. Anyone following this case carefully will know that I was faced with an excessive and increasing burden in trying to care for patients at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital. I did the best I could for my patients in the circumstances until finally I had no alternative but to resign. I draw great comfort from the expert evidence of Professor Karol Sikora, who told the Panel that given the situation, my general practice and procedure were perfectly reasonable. I am sorry the Panel did not have greater regard for his opinion.

"None of the nurses who gave evidence were critical of my care of the patients in this Inquiry. The consultants who had overall responsibility for the patients never expressed concern about my treatment and working practices.

"Throughout my career I have tried to do my very best for all my patients and have had only their interests at heart. I am hugely grateful to all my former medical and nursing colleagues, and to all my patients who have been so supportive of me throughout this ten year ordeal."

Ends

Further information

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membership include insurance for claims of clinical negligence and a wide range of medico-legal advisory services.

Contact Susan Field or Dawn Boyall in the MDU's press office on T: Code A
M: Code A E: Code A www.the-mdu.com

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Subject: Dr Jane Barton - GMC

Dear Pat

Many thanks for having a word with me about Jane's case and the draft press release.

As I explained, the Panel has to deal with things in 2 stages. The first stage is to determine which facts are found proved. The second is to decide on the basis of the proven facts, if they amount to serious professional misconduct and what the penalty should be. It is only once we have that final decision that it would be appropriate for any press release to be made.

The Panel has been deliberating on the facts now for about 2 weeks, and the present indication is that they will announce their decision tomorrow morning. They will then go on to hear submissions about serious professional misconduct and sanction, and then deliberate on those issues in private. They will only have a day left in the allocated period for the hearing as it is due to finish on Friday.

Given that they have taken so long to deal with the facts, I think it is highly unlikely they will be able to finish in time.

I think there are 3 possibilities:

The first is that they can't finish, and will allocate a further period at some stage in the future.

The second is that they try to conclude things over the weekend.

The third is that they are able to finish by Friday afternoon/evening.

As we discussed, I think it is likely to be option 1, but any which way, as and when the final determination comes through, we will have a look at the draft press release and see what needs to be amended with Jane. We will then make sure you have that available as soon as we can.

I will ask Dawn Boyall from the MDU Press Department to send you the draft press release tomorrow, but as I mentioned, it is only a draft and based on the worst case scenario. If, as we hope, the decision is more favourable, we can readily consider what needs to be changed, though obviously much of the text can stand as it is.

I will let Dawn have your number and am copying this to Dawn so you will have her email. I am also copying it to Nick Tennant, who is standing in for me over the next 2 days as I am away on leave, having anticipated that the hearing would have concluded by now.

If you do need to have a word about anything please do feel free to contact me - it will be no problem. I should have my blackberry with me for email, and my mobile is Code A. Don't worry about me being away - Jane comes first.

With thanks for all your help, and my best wishes

Ian

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