

RESTRICTED

Form MG11(T)

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WITNESS STATEMENT

(CJ Act 1967, s.9; MC Act 1980, ss.5A(3) (a) and 5B; MC Rules 1981, r.70)

Statement of: WOODLAND, BETTY

Age if under 18: OVER 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: RISK ADVISER AND FACILITATOR

This statement (consisting of 5 page(s) each signed by me) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signed: B WOODLAND

Date: 01/02/2003

I live at the above address shown overleaf.

I am currently employed by the Fareham and Gosport Primary Care Trust , as a Risk Adviser and Facilitator, a position I took up on 1st April 2002 (01/04/2002).

I am a R.G.N., qualifying in 1960 and I have worked within the Health Service throughout the south of England and abroad. I retired from full time nursing in 2000 but continued in my role as Risk Adviser/Facilitator on a part time basis.

I am a Steward for the Royal College of Nursing and I advise and support colleagues in the RCN in an official capacity.

In 1978 I joined the Gosport War Memorial Hospital as a Senior Staff Nurse, grade F, in the minor injuries department. Due to some man management issues I became actively involved in the RCN and subsequently a Steward shortly afterwards.

When I arrived at the GWMH it was an old building and had off site annexes for some of its patients, one of these being The Redcliffe Annex which was a geriatric unit, housing patients who had suffered strokes or required looking after on a long term basis.

Around 1993/1994 Redcliffe Annex patients were moved to the main hospital and were placed in Dryad Ward. The staff who had worked in the Redcliffe Annex moved with them.

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Redcliffe Annex was renamed Redcliffe House and its patients came from Knowle and Coldeast Hospitals .

In 1994 the GWMH ceased to come under the administration of the Portsmouth and South East Health Authority and came under new management in the Portsmouth Health Care NHS Trust. I found the new managers approachable and accessible; they promoted an open culture and welcomed the observations of all of the Unions who represented staff at the GWMH.

I have been asked if I was approached in any capacity by members of staff, in relation to syringe drivers and the use of diamorphine.

I was first approached in relation to these issues in 1998 when seventeen RCN members sought representation in relation to an enquiry involving a previous patient, Mrs RICHARDS .

As duty sister for the hospital, normally on my weekend shifts, I had access to the hospital keys. I was aware that there were syringe drivers in the hospital because some were kept in the storeroom and occasionally I would be asked for the keys to the store in order for a syringe driver to be removed.

I have been asked if I ever attended the Redcliffe Annex as the duty sister. I never went down to the Redcliffe Annex, as this would have left the Casualty Department unsupervised.

I have been asked if I received any training in their use whilst at the GWMH. I did not. This was because I did not use them during the course of my work. I had the initial training in their use when I was qualifying but as I worked entirely within the A & E Department, I had no cause to use them, Syringe drivers were not used to administer pain relief in my department, any diamorphine given, would have been via an ordinary syringe.

I have been asked about documents relating to the use of syringe drivers and diamorphine at the GWMH in 1991.

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I first became aware of their existence on 17th September 2002 (17/09/2002). I received a telephone call late in the evening from Jane PARVIN , the Personnel Director of the Fareham and Gosport Primary Care Trust, inviting me to a meeting the following day which would be highly sensitive, I noted the conversation directly afterwards (BW/1). I then contacted Steve BARNES , a senior RCN Officer, and informed him of the conversation and meeting.

At 1030 hrs on Wednesday 18th September 2002 (18/09/2002) I attended a meeting with Jane PARVIN, Toni SCAMMELL , Anita TUBBITT and Beverley TURNBALL . Anita and Beverley are Staff Nurses at the GWMH. I spoke briefly to Anita and Beverley prior to going into the meeting to offer my services as a RCN Steward.

Details of the meeting were kept by Toni SCAMMELL. I have received a copy of these minutes and confirm that they are an accurate record. I made my own notes of the meeting (BW/2) which I typed up afterwards(BW/3)

A number of documents were discussed and a copy of these documents were made. Anita, Beverley and I were given copies of these documents and this was the first time I had seen them.

I made a note of the documents given by Anita TUBBITT to Jane PARVIN (BW/4).

On 7th October 2002 (07/10/2002) I visited Sylvia GIFFIN at her home. I went to give her the legal representation form required by the RCN. Sylvia gave me a number of documents, some of which appeared to be copies of the documents given to Jane PARVIN by Anita and Beverley.

I took copies leaving the originals with Sylvia and handed the copies to DC Kate ROBINSON later that afternoon.

I am aware of the publicity surrounding the GWMH and certain members of its medical staff.

I would like to say that during my time of employment at the GWMH I have had contact with

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Dr Jane BARTON on a regular basis. I have always found her to be very accommodating and very nice to the patients I have seen her with. I have always found her to be approachable, humorous, friendly and very professional.

I have worked on a number of occasions with Dr LORD . I would describe her as being one of the most professional Consultants I have ever worked with. I have always found her to be extremely knowledgeable and friendly. She is extremely caring to both her patients and her staff.

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