



HAMPSHIRE CONSTABULARY

WITNESS STATEMENT

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

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Statement of: Bernard Frederick PAGE

Age if under 18: 0/18

(if over 18 insert 'over 18')

Occupation:

Code A

This statement (consisting of 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 in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signature: Bernard Page

Date: 24th June 2002

I am Bernard Frederick PAGE, residing

Code A

This is a formal statement as regards a complaint I have regarding the police investigation carried out regards the circumstances of the death of my mother at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital in March 1998.

My mother, Mrs Eva Isobel Page **Code A** was admitted to the Queen Alexandra Hospital, Cosham, Portsmouth, on the 6th February, 1998. She was discharged and transferred to the GWMH on the 27th February, 1998, and subsequently died at 1930 hrs on the evening of the 3rd March, 1998.

Following media coverage in the Portsmouth News on Saturday 7th April, 2001, I raised concern regarding the treatment my mother had received whilst under the care of the medical and nursing staff of GWMH.

I discussed my concerns with my wife and eldest daughter who were involved in visiting, and the discussions with staff whilst my mother was in the QAH and GWMH. After discussing our personal recollections, it became clear there were areas which were of a concern to us.

On Monday, 9th April, 2001, I contacted Sgt **Code A** by phone, who I understood to be a member of the investigation team, investigating deaths at GWMH. He requested I write to him detailing my areas of concern and promised that the death of my mother would be investigated.

The letter dated 9th April, 2001 (produced by reference BFP/EIP/1, was a true recollection of events as we remembered them. The letter was signed by myself, my wife (Marguerite Page) and my eldest

Signed : **Bernard Page**

Signature witnessed by : **M. Wise Insp** **Code A**

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daughter (Samantha Page). The letter was delivered by hand myself to Kingston Crescent police station at 1900 hrs on Tuesday 10th April 2001. Code A rang me at work the following day and confirmed receipt of my letter and again promised that the events of my mother's death would be investigated.

I believed that this letter would constitute a formal complaint concerning the treatment of my mother.

I heard nothing from the police enquiry team until a letter dated 15th November, 2001, arrived, informing me that police enquiries were still continuing and to draw my attention to an investigation being conducted by the Commission to Health Improvement (produced by reference BFP/EIP/2).

On the 21st November, 2001, I had a meeting with an enquiry team from the Commission for Health Improvement (CH1) and as written in my letter that day, I was still under the impression that I had made an official police complaint concerning the treatment of my mother.

On the 13th February, 2002, I received a second letter from Hampshire Constabulary, signed by Detective Superintendent J. JAMES (produced by reference BFP/EIP/3). The letter quotes "Enquiries" rather than an investigation as I was told it would be. It also stated that no further action would be taken. Mr. James offered me the opportunity with other concerned relatives to attend a meeting to explain his position.

On Friday 22nd February 2002, I attended Fratton Police Station and listened to Mr. James explain his own personal reasons as to why no further action would be taken on the death of my mother or any other patient.

He stated that he had commissioned two medical expert reports and that they were critical of the treatment some patients received. Mr. James stated that he would release these reports to the relatives of

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those patients who had been reported on. He also stated that he would write to us, after his holiday, confirming the format and correct wording for our letters to enable him to release these reports to us.

It was at the end of this meeting that I was informed for the first time that my mother was one of four deaths reported on by these medical experts.

On the 27th February, 2002, I received a further letter from Mr. James. I found the letter to be confusing and unclear as regards obtaining these medical reports. I therefore asked a Solicitor to translate the content of this letter who advised that it would be highly unlikely that the police would release them without a Court Order, and would then also possibly oppose their release. (Produced by reference BFP/EIP/4).

I was unable to contact Mr. James by phone.

I waited unto the 26th March, 2002 when I obtained my mother's medical notes from the Portsmouth Hospital Trust. After examining her notes and getting an independent medical professional opinion, I found several areas of grave concern. Issues concerning the stopping of her daily medication without reason, the prescription and use of opiates including diamorphine when her notes clearly stated she was not in pain and the cause of death stated on the death certificate had not been confirmed in her medical notes, caused me to believe that a full police investigation was required into her death.

However, it now appears that the police have not conducted a thorough investigation and I wish to formally make a complaint against Det Supt James on the following grounds:

1. No attempt has ever been made to contact my wife, daughter or myself in order to obtain a full written statement or confirming my initial complaint.

Signed : **Bernard Page**

Signature witnessed by : **M. Wise Insp** Code A

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2. No attempt has been made to contact us in order to confirm what I believe to be important facts in my letter relating to my mother and which are of a similar nature to other deaths at the hospital.
3. No contact was ever made with me to explain the process, or direction that the so-called investigation was taking until well after the final decision had been made.
4. There is one notation in her notes that if true would indicate an intent to kill (dated 27.2.98). This should have been noted by any police investigation and investigated further.
5. I deem it disgraceful that Mr. James's promise of release of the medical reports relating to my mother's death was never forthcoming. The failure of the police to release them to me as the next of kin, is made worse as every nurse, doctor and Health Authority responsible for the care and well being of my mother have access to them & read them.
6. It would appear from the letter dated 15th Nov 2001 (reference BFP/EIP/2) that the police had already contacted CH1 and possibly supplied them with evidential material to support their enquiry prior to this date. I would ask if this is normal practice and question the ethic of supply of such evidence prior to deciding if there was sufficient evidence to proceed with a criminal case against the hospital. Therefore, had Det Supt James already made the decision not to continue with the case at this stage? I would also ask if any of the other agencies (GMC, Nursing and Midwifery Council) had also been sent evidential papers.

This is the basis of my complaint, but also refer to my communication with the Chief Constable, and ask that this formal complaint now be fully investigated.

Signed : **Bernard Page**

Signature witnessed by : **M. Wise Insp** Code A

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Other interested parties, such as the local M.P. Mr. Viggers and the local NHS Trust, have reported to the local press that a full police investigation has been carried out, which I believe is not the case.

(Newspaper article produced by reference BFP/EIP/5).

Bernard Page

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Month of:							Month of:							Month of:						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
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Month of:							Month of:							Month of:						
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31					29	30	31					29	30	31				

Contact point (if different from above):

Address:

Telephone no:

Does the person making this statement have any special needs if required to attend court and give evidence ? (e.g. language difficulties, visually impaired, restricted mobility, etc.). If Yes, please enter details.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Does the person making this statement need additional support as a vulnerable or intimidated witness? If Yes, please enter details.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Does the person making this statement give their consent to it being disclosed for the purposes of civil proceedings (e.g. child care proceedings)?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

Statement taken by (print name): Insp 7948 Wise

Station: OA

Time statement taken:

Place Statement Taken: H/A

Signed: **Bernard Page**

Signature witnessed by: **M. Wise Insp** Code A

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