

**RESTRICTED**

Form MG11(T)

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**WITNESS STATEMENT**

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

Statement of: SCAMMELL, ANTONIA JANE

Age if under 18: OVER 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: SENIOR NURSE GWMH

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 anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Signed: A J SCAMMELL

Date: 21/02/2003

I reside at the address shown overleaf. I am currently employed as the Senior Nurse at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital by the Fareham and Gosport Primary Care Trust.

I began my nursing career as a State Enrolled Nurse (SEN) in the Royal Navy. I left the Navy in 1989 and went to work at St Mary's Hospital in Portsmouth. I was employed by the Portsmouth Acute Trust (Renal Unit).

In November 1990 I began a conversion course to become a Registered General Nurse (RGN) and qualified in April 1991.

I remained at St Mary's Hospital until July 1999 when I left to become the General Manager for Medicine, still working for the Portsmouth Acute Trust.

In November 2000 I moved to my current position. My role includes the responsibility of managing the development of G Grade Nurses (Sisters), I also help develop the local environment which includes working on the ward as well as in teaching.

At the time of commencing at the GWMH, I was not aware of any enquiries or concerns relating to the use of Diamorphine and syringe drivers.

I had not worked in a community hospital before and I considered the way that the doctors were regarded and treated as antiquated, by that I mean that I thought that the nursing staff regarded them as being all powerful figures and that their instructions were to be carried out without

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question. I also considered that the patient documentation was poor, which leads to poor continuity of care. This was identified as being a problem and training was put in place to rectify it.

At this point the hospital was engaged in the training of staff in the development of intermediate care.

I would describe intermediate care as the care given after the medical care has finished and before the patient is suitable for discharge. It encompasses all areas of rehabilitation.

Prior to this the Daedalus Ward had contained a mixture of patients, those who required continuing care and those who required rehabilitation. A period of change came whereby the number of continuing care patients decreased and the number of intermediate care patients increased, hence the training put into place. Dryad Ward had only continuing care patients.

I first became aware that there was an issue with the use of Diamorphine in the hospital when the Commission for Health Improvement (CHI) came to the GWMH at the request of the police, although I was aware that there were ongoing complaints.

CHI carried out an enquiry into the working practises of the hospital and developed an action plan for the hospital to follow which would improve its working practises. Some of its recommendations had already been identified and were being addressed.

In September 2002 I became aware that Professor BAKER would be coming to the hospital in order to carry out an audit of its records.

In order to make the staff aware of this audit a staff meeting was called for 1300 on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2002 (16/09/2002) at the hospital.

The meeting was going to be attended by Lucy DOCHERTY, Chair of the Fareham and Gosport Primary Care Trust. Jane PARVIN, Personnel Director of the Fareham and Gosport Primary Care Trust and Jan PEACH, Services Manager - Community Hospitals, Fareham and Gosport Primary Care Trust.

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I and the various members of staff from around the hospital were waiting for the meeting to start when I received notification from Jan that they had been delayed and the meeting was to be put back until 1330. I told the staff of the delay and suggested they go and get a drink.

It was as the other staff members were leaving the room that I was approached by Anita TUBBRITT and Beverley TURNBALL, both RGN's. They asked if they could speak to me and I took them both to my office where Anita gave me a file with a clear plastic front. I flicked through its contents, I didn't pay particular attention until I came to a copy of a set of minutes made by Gerardine WHITNEY. These minutes referred to a meeting held at the GWMH and were concerned with the use of Diamorphine and syringe drivers. When I read the minutes I felt sick. I considered the minutes to be very damning in relation to current climate. I stopped reading and asked them why they had brought the file in now. Anita told me that she had seen an article in a Sunday newspaper about GWMH which stated that no one had ever brought their concerns about syringe drivers to the attention of management before and that there had been no training in their use but she had received training.

I told them I would have to take it further and I spoke to Jan PEACH who was about to go into the staff meeting, so I locked the file in my filing cabinet in my office and went to the meeting. I gave Jan the file after the meeting and together we approached Jane PARVIN and Lucy DOCHERTY with it.

At 1700 hrs I received a telephone call from Ian PIPER, the Chief Executive of Fareham and Gosport Primary Care Trust, asking that I put a couple of questions to Anita and Beverley. I noted the questions and answers and then typed them up. I produce a typed copy (TJS/1).

The questions were 'Why had they brought the documents forward now?' This question had already been asked of Anita and Beverley so I was able to answer and did they feel that the matter had been sorted as the document seemed to stop abruptly.

They told me that they felt the matter had been sorted out. Anita said that things had changed

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for a short period of time as patients didn't appear to be automatically put on Diamorphine.

They were also told that Dr BARTON had been on a palliative care course and knew what she was talking about. I informed Ian PIPER of their replies.

On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2002 (18/09/2002) I attended a meeting at the GWMH. The meeting was chaired by Jane PARVIN and I took the minutes (TJS/2). Anita TUBBRITT, Beverley TURNBALL and Betty WOODLAND, the RCN Steward, were also present.

A copy of the minutes was given to all those present and has been agreed as an accurate record.

I have been asked if I have ever met Gerardine WHITNEY, Dr Jane BARTON or Dr LORD. I have never met or heard of Gerardine WHITNEY before. I have met Dr Jane BARTON once and I found her to be very abrupt. I know Dr LORD and I would describe her as being a lovely, caring lady who works very hard.

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