

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: ROWLES, KATHRYN ELIZABETH

Age if under 18: OVER 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

This statement (consisting of 2 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: Kathryn ROWLES

Date: 09/01/2003

I am Kathryn Elizabeth ROWLES and I live at an address known to Hampshire Police. I have been employed by the Health Authority since 1994 and am presently the Director of Public Health with the Fareham and Gosport Primary Care Trust, Fareham Reach, 166, Fareham Road, Gosport. I was officially appointed to this position on 1st July 2002 (01/07/2002). Previous to this appointment I was the Nurse Advisor and Specialist in Public Health to the Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and South East Hampshire Health Authority.

During the morning of Monday, 16th September 2002 (16/09/2002) I attended a meeting with Ian PIPER, Jane PARVIN, Jan PEACH, Lucy DOCHERTY and Sue GALLEY to discuss how we would manage and coordinate the media and other communications surrounding Professor BAKER's audit into the issues surrounding the Gosport War Memorial Hospital. The meeting was adjourned as Jane PARVIN and Lucy DOCHERTY had a prearranged meeting at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital that afternoon with staff to bring them up to date with the issues of this audit. It was agreed that the meeting would reconvene later that afternoon.

When the meeting was reconvened the same persons were present. Jane PARVIN then disclosed that a member of staff at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital had handed her a package of documents. I had brief sight of some these documents and can recall that there was a letter to or from Chris WEST included in the bundle. The documents were photocopied by Sue GALLEY and then handed back to Jane PARVIN who kept constant control of them. The contents of these documents were discussed and related to the use of diamorphine at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital.

Signed: Kathryn ROWLES
2004(1)

Signature Witnessed by:

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Continuation of Statement of: ROWLES, KATHRYN ELIZABETH

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The following day, Tuesday, 17th September 2002 (17/09/2002) I personally took an envelope containing what I believed to be copies of the original documents and handed them to the Director of Public Health, Simon TANNER's secretary at the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic Health Authority, Oakley Road, Southampton.

I did not have any knowledge of the existence of these documents prior to the 16th September 2002 (16/09/2002) and I was certainly not aware of any issues concerning the use of Diamorphine at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital until the media coverage last year and the launch of the CHI enquiry.

Signed: Kathryn ROWLES
2004(1)

Signature Witnessed by: