

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: GALLEY, SUSAN

Age if under 18: OVER 18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

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: S GALLEY

Date: 06/08/2003

I am the Communication Manager within the Media and Communications Service for the Portsmouth City, East Hampshire and Fareham and Gosport Primary Care Trusts. The Media and Communications Service is hosted by the East Hampshire Primary Care Trust but I service all three equally.

I have worked within the Health Service in a purely administrative role. I have no medical training or background.

Prior to joining the Portsmouth and South East Hants Health Authority in May 1999, I worked for the West Surrey Health Authority as Communications Manager and prior to that, for the South West Surrey Health Authority as Legal Liaison Officer.

I came to Hampshire as Communications Manager and was based at Finchdean House on The St Mary's Hospital site in Portsmouth. My role was to manage the internal and external methods of communication, by that I mean devising and implementing internal methods of communication for staff. Liaising with all forms of the media. Arranging PR events, ensuring their coverage and advising and supporting the Chief Executives and Directors in relation to all matters of communication.

I have been asked when I first became aware of the situation at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital. I first became aware when I was informed that the Commission for Health Improvement was coming to the hospital to conduct an investigation. I took no part in this enquiry and was not involved in any of the departmental or media briefings.

Signed: S GALLEY
2004(1)

Signature Witnessed by:

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On 1st April 2002 (01/04/2002) my role changed to my current position whereby I covered the three Primary Care Trusts as Communications Manager with a lead on external communications.

In May 2002 the CHI report was published and I then became involved with drafting the press releases and press packs in preparation of the press conference in relation to the report. I took my general briefing notes in preparation for the press conference from the CHI report.

In September 2002 there was a piece in the Times newspaper relating to Professor BAKER who had been commissioned to review the GWMH's records. I set up a press conference and an interview with Meridian Television Company which was to be taken by Ian PIPER, the Chief Executive Fareham and Gosport Primary Care Trust.

On 16th September 2002 (16/09/2002) I attended a meeting at Fareham Reach. This meeting was also attended by Ian PIPER, Simon TANNER, Jan PEACH, Lucy DOCHERTY and Kathryn ROWLES. At the conclusion of this meeting, Lucy, Jan and Jane went on to the GWMH in order to speak to staff. I remained at Fareham Reach with Ian and I watched whilst he gave a television interview. The interview was delayed whilst we waited for the cameraman to arrive.

When the interview ended I went with Ian to his office and saw that Jane and Lucy were already there. As we walked in Ian was handed a thin file of papers and told "I think you need to see this". I cannot remember who handed him the file. I have been asked how Ian reacted when he read the papers. I would describe his reaction as one of shock and disbelief. It looked to me as if this was the first time he had been aware of their content.

Ian flicked through the papers and asked "Where has this come from?"

He then made a couple of phone calls to various people I believe he rang Max MILLETT and

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Tony HORNE . I was present in the room at the time of these calls. Ian briefly outlined the content of the document. It appeared to me that the people he was speaking to did not know what he was talking about, in relation to the document.

While Ian was on the phone, I scanned through the documents. I noted that they were old, the staples holding some of them together were rusty and they had been typed on a typewriter as opposed to a word processor. I recall that the papers related to concerns over prescribing issues, there were minutes of meetings and copies of letters.

I remember that Dr Jane BARTON's name was mentioned in the documents.

I then made two copies of the documents. I remember seeing minutes of a meeting. I remember seeing Chris WEST's name. I didn't read all of the documents I just scanned them. I got Kathryn ROWLES to check my copies as I thought that I had copied some twice but it appeared that some documents were the same but sent to different people. The letters didn't mean anything to me and I didn't recognise any of the names.

I gave both copies to Ian.

I have been asked if I know Dr Jane BARTON. I have met her on a number of occasions as she used to be the Chair for the Gosport Primary Care Group. I would not describe her as a friend, I only know her professionally.

I have been asked how long I have known Ian PIPER. I have known him for the last 2-3 years in my professional role.

I have been shown a photocopy of some documents exhibited as JEP/GWMH/1/KMR/COPY/5 .

I believe that this is a copy of the original documents handed to me by Ian PIPER and subsequently copied by me.

Signed: S GALLEY
2004(1)

Signature Witnessed by: