

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:

Code A

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

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:

Code A

Date: 07/07/2003

I live at the address known to the police.

I am a retired SRN having qualified in 1978. I have worked mostly within the geriatric side of nursing.

In either 1987/1988 I began working as a Staff Nurse at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital, Bury Road, Gosport. I wasn't based at the main hospital but worked at the Redcliff Annex, The Avenue, Gosport.

The Redcliff Annex was a standalone unit which had 21 female patients who were placed on two floors of the building.

The unit dealt with geriatric females, the type of patient were made up of ladies suffering from dementia, Alzheimer's Disease, people with bad arthritis and I recall we had some amputees.

Generally the patients were old and frail and just needed looking after. They were with us for the long term, I do not remember any of them going home. Some of the patients were with us for years. I remember a lady called Kathy SMITH who was a bit retarded and had cerebral palsy, Mrs PARVIN and a Mrs BREEZE. Basically patients came to us and stayed until they died.

The unit was originally a GP unit which meant that the patients own GP would attend to the health of the patient and prescribe any medication that they might require. If we had a problem

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which required a doctor then we would call the patients GP out to us. The majority of patients only required mild pain relief and would be given analgesics.

I cannot recall when the system changed but the responsibility for the medical needs of the patients was taken over by one doctor. This was Dr Jane BARTON .

I used to work with the same people. I worked constant nights on a part time basis. I worked with Mary DUFFY , Mary FIELD , Jean WILLIAMS , a lady I only remember as Aideen , Helen , Reena , Ruth THICK and Leslie . These were all untrained staff, the auxiliaries. I also worked with Anita TUBBRITT and **Code A** who were trained staff. I also worked with **Code A**

I have been asked if I know Sylvia GIFFIN . I did, she worked nights as well but opposite nights to me. I remember Jill HAMBLIN and Lyn BARRETT from the day staff.

Code A was the night sister who used to come down from the main hospital mainly to help dispense the drugs.

All prescribed drugs had to be given out by trained staff. Two members of staff were required. One to prepare them and the other to check that the dose was correct and the entry in the drugs register was correct.

I have been asked if I ever had any concerns over the use of syringe drivers and diamorphine.

I remember that I did have concerns on a couple of occasions. I remember that a couple of patients were put on syringe drivers with diamorphine and I thought that there were no indications that they needed it. I cannot remember these patients names.

I remember that a number of the night staff had the same concerns. Sylvia GIFFIN raised these concerns and there was a meeting at the hospital about it. I believe that Isobelle EVANS , the lady in charge of the nurses, was there. I don't think that there were any doctors present.

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I recall that Jill HAMBLIN, Sylvia GIFFIN, **Code A** Anita TUBBRITT and **Code A** **Code A** as well as a large number of untrained staff.

I cannot remember the outcome of the meeting but I think that we had to go and this is why I attended. I do not think that anything changed as a result of the meeting. Not a lot happened because of it.

I have been asked if I can remember Gerri WHITNEY coming to a meeting at the Annex. I cannot but I knew that she was a senior tutor at the Queen Alexandra Hospital. I remember that the other staff were talking about her and that's where I heard her name from.

I have been asked if I was aware that staff attended a meeting with the RCN and that the RCN was in contact with the hospital.

I was not aware of either.

I didn't receive any training as a result of the meeting with Mrs EVANS. I had already attended a seminar in the use of syringe drivers prior to this. I had set up and serviced syringe drivers on the wards and I had no concerns about these occasions. If I had have done I would have raised them at the time.

At some point Redcliffe Annex moved up to the main hospital and I moved with it. The annex went into Dryad Ward and I continued to work nights.

As I remember the issue of syringe drivers was more raised and I do not remember it being resolved or improving.

I have been asked about the relationship between the day shift and night shift. In my experience the two shifts normally have a 'them and us' mentality. However I felt that it was worse than normal on Dryad Ward and I would put this down to the personality of Jill HAMBLIN, who

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was the sister in charge of the ward. I found her to be antagonistic, she seemed to think that the day staff worked harder than the night staff.

In 1998 I was signed off sick, with a bad back. I think that it was sometime in November. I was off for three months. I was working on Sultan Ward at this point having moved wards some two years previously.

I returned to Sultan Ward around January 1999 and I was medically retired in March 2000.

I have been asked how I found Dr BARTON on the occasions that I met her.

I didn't normally see the doctors as I worked nights but on the times I did have contact with her I found to be pleasant and approachable. I never had occasion to talk to her about the treatment of patients.

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