

RESTRICTED

Form MG11(T)

Page 1 of 4

WITNESS STATEMENT

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

Statement of: CORLESS, SUSAN ELIZABETH

Age if under 18: 0.18 (if over 18 insert 'over 18') Occupation: LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT

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 E CORLESS

Date: 16/06/2003

I am currently employed by Hampshire County Council as a Learning Support Assistant at the Bridgemary Community School, Wych Lane, Gosport .

Between around 1978 - 1992 I worked as a nursing auxiliary at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital , Bury Road, Gosport.

I initially worked at the main hospital for around 18 months, I then moved to work at the Northcote Annex again for about 18 months. I then went to work for two nights a week at the Redcliff Annex, The Avenue, Gosport. I worked on Friday and Saturday nights.

I remember working with **Code A**, Anita TUBBRETT , Agnes SIMPER , two Mary's, Lyn BARRETT , Sister **Code A** , Sister GREEN .

I have been asked my opinion on the level of general patient care that the patients received. The level of care at the main hospital at Northcote House was good. The level of care at Redcliff Annex was poor.

I considered that the layout of the building was not good. Patients didn't have any privacy. The food was brought up from the main building so it would be cold. Staff were busy and didn't always have time to look after patients properly. I would not have liked my mother to be a patient there.

Signed: S E CORLESS
2004(1)

Signature Witnessed by:

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Continuation of Statement of: CORLESS, SUSAN ELIZABETH

Form MG11(T)(CONT)
Page 2 of 4

We had a lot of supply nurses who didn't know the layout or routine so things took a lot longer to do.

I have been asked about the use of syringe drivers. I have never put a syringe driver, nor have I been trained in their use because I am not qualified. I have double checked the medication with trained staff before when there hasn't been anyone else to do it.

I have also given patients medication which had been checked and left out by trained staff when there wasn't any trained staff on the night shift.

The drugs would be left out in pots with little strips of paper telling us who they were for.

I have written up patients notes and handed over to the oncoming day staff.

I remember that on many occasions I worked with an auxiliary called Peggy and there would be just the two of us, no trained staff at all.

I have been asked if I had any concerns about the use of syringe drivers. On some occasions I did. I didn't understand why some stroke patients who didn't appear to be in pain were put on them.

When patients were put on syringe drivers they were not taken off them until they died. In my opinion the use of a syringe driver shortened the patients life.

I have been asked if I ever administered diamorphine, I did not. I have been asked if I was ever concerned about its use. I consider that on some occasions it was used in appropriately. It made the patient quiet and shorted their life.

I have been asked if in my opinion it was given to people who didn't require that level of pain relief. I have to say yes.

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Continuation of Statement of: CORLESS, SUSAN ELIZABETH

Form MG11(T)(CONT)

Page 3 of 4

I noticed that the beds were always full and there were always people waiting. I think that diamorphine was used to keep the patient moving through the annex, to keep the waiting lists down.

We used to get such an assortment of patients, people with cancer, people who had strokes, there was a lady called Kitty who had cerebral palsy, which was unusual.

I cannot remember anyone leaving Redcliff annex to go home. No one got better and no one left.

I have been asked if I ever raised my concerns with anyone. I didn't, I felt that I was not in charge, I worked with people who used to pad the patients up at night and not carry out the proper night checks. I also worked with people who were more conscientious and caring who did turn patients and check them.

I have been asked who these nurses were, they were Code A and Anita TUBBRETT.

The more slap dash nurse was Agnes SIMPA who I believed is now called HUDSON.

Staff were under a lot of pressure to get patients up, dressed, fed, with very few staff.

I would like to say that when there were not any trained staff on at night, the night sister would come from the hospital to check out the medicines and I would give out the medicines as directed by her notes.

I did enjoy working at the Redcliff Annex, the shifts were convenient.

I have been asked if I can recall anyone dying when I didn't think that they had seemed that ill. I can say that I have returned to work to discover that patients had died and I had been surprised by their sudden demise. I cannot remember specific details as it was all so long ago.

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Continuation of Statement of: CORLESS, SUSAN ELIZABETH

Form MG11(T)(CONT)
Page 4 of 4

I have been asked if I can remember any of the medical staff who came to the annex.

I remember a lady doctor called Jane BARTON. She would come in everyday and I remember that she didn't seem to spend much time with the patients.

Signed: S E CORLESS
2004(1)

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