

**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: VARDON, VALERIE MARY

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

This statement (consisting of 4 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: V M VARDON

Date: 31/03/2006

I am Doctor Valerie Mary VARDON, nee THORPE and am employed by East Hants Health Trust. I presently work at St Mary's Hospital, Portsmouth, Hants.

I obtained a B.Sc (Honours) Degree in Physiology in 1969 and MBBS (Second Class honours) Degree in 1972 and MRCP (UK) in 1977.

I fully registered with the General Medical Council in July 1973.

I became a member of the British Medical Association in 1972 and the British Geriatrics Society since 1977.

I have been on the special register for Geriatrics since June 1996. My GMC number is 1552357.

I am also a member of the Medical Defence Union.

I am a member of the Portsmouth Hospitals Clinical Practice Ethics Group.

From July 1972 to July 1973 I was a House Officer at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle being appointed Senior House Officer in Medicine there in August 1973.

Between July 1975 and July 1977 I was Registrar in Geriatric and General Medicine at

Signed: V M VARDON  
2004(1)

Signature Witnessed by:

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Newcastle General Hospital.

Between August 1977 and January 1980 I held appointment as full time Senior Registrar in Geriatric and General Medicine for the Northern Region and part time Senior Registrar in Geriatric Medicine, Northern Region from October 1980 to August 1987.

From September 1987 to July 1990 I was part time Senior Clinical Medical Officer (care of the elderly) with Newcastle Health Authority.

Between June 1991 and February 1999 I held a part time staff grade in the Department of Medicine for Elderly people, Queen Alexandra Hospital, Portsmouth, Hants with additional locum consultant sessions from September 1997.

My current appointment is part time Associate Specialist, Department of Medicine for Older People, Queen Alexandra and St Mary's Hospitals, Portsmouth.

I was accredited for Higher Medical Training in Geriatric Medicine in November 1985.

Since joining the Dept of Medicine for Older People in Portsmouth I have developed a special interest in palliative care and was involved in the planning and launch of the Wessex Palliative Care Guide on behalf of Professor SEVERS .

I have been shown by DC Code A photocopies of documents, the first being titled 'Protocol for Prescription and Administration of Diamorphine by Subcutaneous Infusion'. This document, the original of which I was shown some years ago by the police, is undated and unsigned. It is a draft. The handwriting on it could be mine but I cannot say for sure, due to the poor quality of the form. I do not recall when I originally saw this document however the second document, again a photocopy is a letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> February 2000 to Dr Ian REID , Medical Director for Elderly Medicine at the Queen Alexandra Hospital. This letter refers to the first document, therefore I assume I would have had sight of it just prior to that date.

Signed: V M VARDON  
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In my letter to Dr REID I gave my opinion on the administration of diamorphine and its effects upon patients.

Levels of diamorphine given to patients vary according to individual needs. I believe I amended the first document, as reflected in my letter of 11<sup>th</sup> February 2000.

The draft would be referred to a medical committee who would discuss and determine future policy: neither I nor Dr REID could do so on our own.

I have also been shown a photocopy of a page 17 of what I believe is the British National Formulary advice as regards to dosages of Morphine Sulphate Oral Solution a Standard Tablets to Modified Release tablets to Diamorphine Hydrochloride by intra muscular injection, finally to Diamorphine by subcutaneous infusion. This is a scale which is used commonly in the UK. I do not know whether this predates or post dates the aforementioned documentation.

Signed: V M VARDON  
2004(1)

Signature Witnessed by: Code A

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