

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: MEARS, ELIZABETH MARY

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

This statement (consisting of 3 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: E M MEARS

Date: 18/08/2003

I live at the address known to the police. I qualified as a SEN in 1972 and I converted to RGN in July 1991.

I began working at the Gosport War Memorial Hospital , Bury Road, Gosport in 1975 and I retired in 1998.

I worked exclusively on the female ward which later became Sultan Ward.

My role required me at times to visit other wards in order to countersign and check the prescribed drug books/registers as the second trained staff present. I have been asked to describe the standard of general patient care on the wards. I would describe the level of care on Sultan Ward as second to none. It was excellent.

I have been asked about the way syringe drivers were used and the way that diamorphine was used.

On Sultan Ward both were used within the guidelines set out and if there was any uncertainty then we would contact the Countess Mountbatten Hospice for their advice. The staff I worked with were very experienced in dealing with terminally ill patients. I was very experienced in using syringe drivers and diamorphine. On Sultan Ward the pain management guidelines were strictly adhered to.

I noticed that when I visited other wards, by that I mean Daedalus Ward, the amount of

Signed: E M MEARS
2004(1)

Signature Witnessed by:

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Continuation of Statement of: MEARS, ELIZABETH MARY

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diamorphine prescribed was set between quite large parameters and therefore the amount administered was left to the discretion of the attending nurse. This placed a lot of responsibility on the attending nurse.

I received training in the use of syringe drivers at the School of Nursing at Queen Alexandra Hospital, Cosham when I did my conversion. I had used them prior to my conversion course but the training I received at QA reinforced the knowledge that I already had. I researched syringe drivers for my course project. I am aware of the police enquiry, I have heard about it from current staff members and from the local media. I am also aware of the internal enquiry again from current members of staff.

I am aware that local GP's were reluctant to admit their patients to the hospital and Dr's at the hospital are apprehensive about prescribing strong pain relief. I have been informed of this from current members of staff.

I have been asked about the details of the attending medical staff.

At one point I researched the number of visiting GP's to my ward. I remember that there were 44 GP's attending the ward. I recall that the Sultan drug trolley was always full of different types of drugs as each doctor had their own preferences. By contrast Daedalus Ward had a very tidy and easily managed drug trolley because it only had Dr BARTON and Dr LORD prescribing for it or consultants from other specialities, ie, dermatology, rheumatology.

Signed: E M MEARS
2004(1)

Signature Witnessed by: