

Witness Name: Kirstin Hannaford
Statement No.: 2
Exhibits: KH/1 (INQ0108389)
Dated: 6 November 2024

THIRLWALL INQUIRY

SECOND WITNESS STATEMENT OF KIRSTIN HANNAFORD

I, Kirstin Hannaford, will say as follows: -

Background

1. My name is Kirstin Hannaford. My current role is Senior Media Adviser with the Care Quality Commission Engagement directorate. I have held my current role since January 2016.
2. As explained in my first witness statement (INQ0108385, dated 30 October), as part of this role I was involved in the drafting of reactive statements on behalf of CQC with regard to the criminal convictions of Lucy Letby in summer 2023.

Handwritten notes (KH/1, INQ0108389)

3. I have been asked to provide a further witness statement to give some context to notes I made during the process of preparing these reactive statements. These notes are exhibited to this statement as KH/1 and have been disclosed to the Inquiry as INQ0108389.
4. My notes from both telephone calls described below would have been made during the calls themselves.

Note from conversation with Julie Hughes

5. The section from eight lines down the page of INQ0108389 (from "*Julie*" followed by a telephone number) to the bottom of the page is my note from my conversation with Julie Hughes on 7 July 2023. This conversation is described at paragraphs 8-9 of my first witness statement (INQ0108385).
6. The penultimate paragraph (starting with "*beginning of July*") ends with the phrase "*led to con*". To the best of my recollection, and based upon my usual note-taking style, this is shorthand for "*led to concerns*".

Note from conversation with Ann Ford

7. The top section of INQ0108389 (up to and including "*did data review and commissioned*") is my note from a conversation I had with Ann Ford. This conversation is referred to at paragraph 9 of my first witness statement ("*an earlier conversation with Ann Ford who had shared her vague recollection of the feedback received regarding the Trust in 2016...*").
8. To the best of my recollection, my conversation with Ann was the day before my conversation with Julie. This would mean that my conversation with Ann was on 6 July 2023.
9. The third line of my note of my conversation with Ann reads "*Susan Gilby?? Medical Director*". As far as I can recall, Ann said that the concerns noted in the focus group (a bullying culture, lack of staffing, and an oppressive air) were reported to the medical director on the same day as the focus group, but could not remember whether Susan Gilby had been the medical director at the time. The questions marks in my notes denote Ann's uncertainty as to who had been the medical director at the relevant time.

Completeness of records

10. I have searched my electronic and hard copy records and have not been able to locate any relevant records beyond the page of notes discussed in this statement and the email trails already disclosed to the Inquiry.

Statement of Truth

I believe that the facts stated in this witness statement are true. I understand that proceedings may be brought against anyone who makes, or causes to be made, a false statement in a document verified by a statement of truth without an honest belief of its truth.

Signed: _____Kirstin Hannaford_____

Dated: _____6 November 2024_____