

Witness Name: Claire
Elizabeth Raggett
Statement No.: 5
Exhibits: 3
Dated: 3 March 2025

THIRLWALL INQUIRY

WITNESS STATEMENT OF CLAIRE ELIZABETH RAGGETT

I, Claire Elizabeth Raggett, will say as follows: -

1. I have been asked by the Thirlwall Inquiry to provide a supplementary witness statement providing information in response to questions asked in a Rule 9 letter dated 17 February 2025.
2. I have been asked to provide my recollection of a discussion with Stephen Cross in relation to the following notebook entry ““*Ian Harvey emails – from Steve Brearrey 2015. Query someone from IT to review.*” I exhibit the relevant pages of my notebook [INQ0107662_0083-0084]. I have no direct recollection of the discussion with Stephen Cross at a one-to-one meeting on 28th August 2018, however the list I detail in my notebook at the time were actions that I needed to complete following the meeting.
3. I have reviewed Stephen Cross’ [INQ0106821_0068] notebook which covers this meeting on 28 August 2018 which sets out:

“Tuesday 28 August 2018...

11.00 AK...

NNU

? email trail back to 2015

IH reported to GMC”

4. The above entry in Stephen Cross’ notebook has helped me in my recollection. At that point in time, I held a secure copy of Ian Harvey’s emails and his laptop in the event that any emails were needed for the police investigation. A copy of Ian Harvey’s email account was provided to the Inquiry. I recall on a number of occasions that Executives, such as Alison Kelly and Susan Gilby, (or their respective executive assistants) would ask me to locate emails in Ian Harvey’s emails that were needed either in relation to the neonatal unit (NNU) or for other Medical Director related matters such as HR investigations, staffing changes

and job descriptions. I would forward any such emails on to the Executive (or their Executive Assistant) requesting the email and the original email would remain in Ian Harvey's email account.

5. From review of my emails, on 22nd August 2018 I shared an email with Mary Crocombe (Alison Kelly's executive assistant) and myself from Ian Harvey in relation to NNU staffing from November 2015. I exhibit this email as **Exhibit CER/01**. As this was not long after Letby's first arrest in July 2018, I believe that this would have been to provide information to Alison Kelly to add into a timeline that she was creating potentially either for a police interview or a NMC referral for Letby. I am unable to fully recollect as to which it was.
[INQ0108915]
6. I therefore believe that the request from Stephen Cross was for me to look at emails in Ian Harvey's email account that related to the NNU matters dating back to 2015 and as I had been unable to locate all of the potentially relevant emails, that I would ask the IMT team to help me check that I had full access to all of Ian Harvey's folders and information. I have been unable to locate any further email correspondence or handwritten notes in my notebooks (previously shared with the Inquiry) in relation to the request from Stephen Cross. I believe that any discussions with IMT would have been verbal as this was the usual process at the time due to the highly confidential nature of the requests, therefore there are no records held of the discussion.
7. I have been asked by the Inquiry whether there are any question of emails that had been sent to or from staff being deleted by IT at this time. There was no question about emails that had been sent to or from staff being deleted by IT at that time. I believe that it is not possible for IT to do this and that only the individual whose email account it is and the staff who have full delegated access to the email account are able to delete emails.
8. I have been asked by the Inquiry whether I am aware of an instruction being given that emails should be deleted. I am not aware of any instruction being given that emails should be deleted and refer paragraph 7 above.
9. All NHS staff who have an nhs.net email account are able to access their email accounts via their own devices such as an iPad, phone or personal laptop via the Microsoft office outlook app and as such they could/may inadvertently/unknowingly delete emails when logged on to different devices. This could also happen on their work laptop/device as well. For those staff who have full delegated access to an email account, they would have the ability to delete emails from the delegated email account however I have no knowledge of any instruction being given to delete emails from anyone's delegated email accounts.

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 in its truth.

Signed: 

Dated: 3rd March 2025